



Maken no Daydreamer *Demon Fist Daydreamer*

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Synopsis :

The MC(Minato) is a college student who died in a plane crash and was reincarnated in a fantasy world.

He was raised alone in the wilderness by his succubus mother, and now he tries to make his way as an adventurer.

Info :

<http://www.novelupdates.com/series/maken-no-daydreamer/>

Translator:

<https://entruce.wordpress.com/projects/mnd-chapters/>



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Before Reading the chapter read this :

1. This is the Original WN that is not at all changed by the summaries and is on the website of syosetu.

2. The parts are divided per my convenience and every chapter (all chapters have 3 chapters included inside of it.) will be will be 4 to 5 parts not anymore than that. This is the second last part for the Chapter 1+2+3. Now onto the chapter and tell me my mistakes as this was written without any help from editor.











Chapters 1+2+3 – Another World Reincarnation and The Strongest Mother.

(Author note: These are suitable parts that will be replaced in the summary when it's rewritten as a book)

This might be a bit sudden, but do you know about [reincarnation]?

It's a popular genre, it can be said to be a constant seller. A staple of fiction on the net.

I was a normal Japanese person, but after I died for some reason I... was reborn into this abnormal world, I got to redo the contents of my life from the age of one.

For the new me, this was what I experienced.

In this reincarnation I was brought up in a common family and with much difficulty I passed the entrance examination for college, this time I consider my life happy. I didn't possess the qualities in that staple of reincarnation, a 'hero.'

I was happily awaiting my future prospects as a university student when the new semester started in spring.

... trajectory, I was hit by a crashing airplane that fell like an air like an arrow. and then I died.

[TL Note: Mc died by literally being hit by a plane crash, and that was his second life, and he reincarnated a third time with the ongoing story]

Bodies and debris scattered, the events transpire around me in slow motion as my vision fades, what I regret is the black history of a pubescent boy on the PC at home... I wish I had deleted it, my social standing will fall posthumously, life was short but I finished it....

.... these are my so-called memories of my past life.

Next thing I know, it had already happened..... [reincarnation]

That was the reason I became like this... an 18-year-old high school student, now in the body of a baby.



My body doesn't do what I want it to, and I don't know where I am either—just in case I look around to my surroundings. The house has a European style located on a beautiful mountain.

It's a 3 story western style house. It has the feel of a place Dracula would live. It has an almost grandiose feel This was my home in this life.

I live here with 2 people, my foster parents.

After being reborn I live like this for a long time and have never been outside our home.

This is because we live in a remote location making it difficult. We have a small garden around our home and around it there is a forest.

By the way the reason these are my foster parents.... because I don't think they are not my parent.

When I met my current parents they didn't seem to be my parents, I don't understand why...Well it feels like the people raising me are definitely not my real parents.

Why is that? can someone explain it....

"Minato? Is the food ready"

"Ah, yes mother it's ready now!"

My 'mother' inquires from under the balcony.

She has long blond hair that goes to her back, it's naturally really pretty, she definitely doesn't need to use conditioner.

She has fair skin. Her body is firm and was well-kept, She is just too perfect. Her breasts were of a size you would have to call big.... I, um, think it may be a health fixation for a boy.

She also had a beautiful face still full of youth. With slightly green eyes and thin eyebrows.

.... her ears were long and pointed. They resemble the ears of an [elf], but she isn't an elf.

Her name was 'Lilian Kyadoriyu

[tl if someone can come up with a better name from what I came up with please let me know リリン・キャドリーユ]

She is a member of a demonic race, a Succubus.

My name is 'Minato Kyadoriyu'

For reasons I don't understand my name from my previous life has been incorporated carefully into my new name.

My hair and eye color are both black and my ears aren't particularly pointy. I feel like my appearance is that of an ordinary human.

Maybe this is the reason why I feel we aren't truly parent and child, even though this is purely my opinion as I haven't heard otherwise.

Even baring such thoughts I have no idea how long I've been here, since I have no memories of my birth or anything following it for some time.

Although from a considerably early time.....due to my memories of a previous life my ego managed to establish itself at probably half a year, I was born and discarded at a considerably early age, this is probably what

moved my 'mother' to take me in.

If that's what happened, this would definitely be what my mother would do.

By the way, when I was taken care of as an infant..... I got to experience intolerable shame play quite a bit....

[TL Notes: the Mc has a teenager mind and body of a baby]

Especially mother's milk, or diaper change....I'm sorry, please forgive me, my mind is braking. After I reincarnated with so much effort... I want to commit suicide hurriedly.

How much vanity can an infant's consciousness actually have?

Even though I can't control it, when mother's milk is offered I automatically drink. I can't control my body functions so when I have a movement I'm changed... I'm powerless to resist it. In truth my shame is fading.

Besides, my 'mother' is an ultra high-class beauty.

I mean for this woman to feed me, who is not her husband or son, her mother's milk. I spent several years in this shameful existence.

☆☆☆

Time flies quickly. In 4 years I am now 9 years old.

naturally as this is a 'Alternate dimension' I am living in an environment that is very different from what I was used to in Modern Japan.

As for the level of technology, it's slightly old-fashioned similar, it gives off an atmosphere similar to what it probably was like in Europe during the middle ages.

Furthermore this world is akin to a so-called "World of Sword and Magic."

When you ask how I can say this for sure it's because mother uses magic often.... when traveling away from home. Demons can be seen swaggering about. The monsters are like you would see in anime or in fantasy games.

Could the 'Abnormal World' I was growing up in have the same feeling as Modern Japan? Naturally if you asked me I'd say it couldn't.

What has been going on since I turned 5, you ask? Under the guidance of mother, I have been in 'training.'

In this world 'training' has a very simple meaning. Its training to fight.

Since demons/ Monsters exist in this world "Strength is Important." After I discussed it with mother, training was commenced.

Of course at first I was bewildered, I could not seem to get an

understanding of it and felt amazed by many things.

Because it is forbidden by mother, I haven't been able to go outside our home, so I haven't seen it directly...though I often see it when I look out the window. Wolves large enough to swallow a child whole without chewing, bears the size of large trucks, and varieties of demons that are clearly dangerous.

I am too weak to oppose the demons I can see wandering about outside. If I were to do so I would be KO'd just by stepping outside the house.

In that regard, if that is the reason, I thought it is completely justified that some training is necessary. Without it I will never be able to go outside.

That is why I decided to ask mother selfishly for 'training.'

So I received training from mother. Although it's strange I set my goal for training to surpass mother.

When I say that. In comparison to the monsters in the forest Mother is incomparable, she is super strong.

During my previous life, because I was absorbed with anime and games, this world of Sword and magic suited my tastes greatly.

Instead of using demonstrations, I was instructed to find monsters in the forest and defeat them. Along the way at the age of five I came to

understand why the monsters avoided the house it had a feeling like 'Ah, so that's why.' (TL:lacking in any shock)

It's probably that mother is the apex predator of the forests ecosystem.

Or should I say, with her strength they behave more like pets.

They offer a comfort between my studies— there are various kinds of cats and birds—I've become quite attached.

Was I reincarnated into a good body, with each day I could see my skills improving while I followed my mother's teachings. Within 1 year it became noticeable, but...

I don't seem to have the disposition to be a wizard.

Unlike with martial arts and weapons no matter how hard I trained there were no results. After a year of training my mother became worried and decided to look into it.

It seems I lack some of the qualities necessary to become a wizard.

For some reason I am unable to use magic of any kind.

For example the rudimentary elemental magic "Ignition", when cast by mother it is like a huge flamethrower, when I use it produces a flame similar to what a lighter makes, I am able to only make such small flames.

In my mother's examination I have both the necessary capacity for sorcery and the sufficient magical power and thus perhaps it has something to do with my body.

When it comes to mastering the magic outside my body I lack control... the defect seems to come from the fact that I lack the 'inductive capability.'

If I were to compare 'ignition magic', to produce a large flame a large amount of power is needed. I have the required amount but for some reason the amount I can emit is insufficient and I am incapable of controlling it after I do emit it.

To better explain it imagine a water tank.

A large amount of water is able to be collected there. I am able to control the release of the water, but the exit amount is like a faucet or a hose.

So what would happen?

Even though I am able to empty the tanks contents, I can only do so at a fixed rate restricted by the outlet, naturally that is not a lot because the outlet is like a domestic faucet. That is what my power is like.

Since mother is a 'Succubus' and I'm a 'human' it's really not a problem, it's just the way I was born.

When I was told this by my mother, I was crestfallen.

No, I went through such a difficult process of reincarnation, I should be able to use magic too! At least that's what I always saw in online fiction.

I am 'defective', my hopes were crushed, can anyone understand?

However, my mother shows no signs of being troubled. "Don't be ashamed!" She told me as smiled and formulated my personal training menu. This blew away my troubling thoughts.

When I received her feelings I felt released. Moreover recently when I train against the demons in the woods, I feel like they have become easier and I have been able to get better results.

So I decided to believe mother and continued to train hard from now on.

By the way because of magic, people like mother are able to live a fairly easy life.

Cooking, cleaning, doing the dishes magic helps with all of them.

However mother also makes sure that I learn all the chores of day-to-day living.

'Look how Mother is doing it, Minato how about you give it a try.' She politely guides me and because of this, no matter what she wants to teach me. I'm able to steadily learn it.

I enjoy this ordinary life while learning from mother. To my mother who teaches me so much about how to live as an adult, my gratitude would never be enough.

When discussing my education it includes the three r's as well, but in this as I still remember my past life as a post college exam high school graduate, they are no problem.

When it comes to language although I speak Japanese I have no problem with communication and although the characters are different I easily learn them. This is because I have been around them since I was an infant and have a wonderful teacher so I was able to learn them easily as I grew up.

As for mathematics as I have graduated from high school and that level of math seems to far exceed this world's standard, I have no difficulty there either.

Because of these things my days were always full...

There's only one thing, I still feel anxious about. A problem I can not ask about...

Maken No Daydreamer Chapter 1+2+3 Part 3

Yeah the problem is that I can't be "Independent". No, it's more like mom doesn't let me become independent.

「Fu~♪. A bath is great after working a lot, right? Kamito.」

「U, Un.....」

Yeah, just along with these situations too.

『Eating food together』

『Bathing together』

『Sleeping in bed together』

No matter how much I claim "I can do it alone". My mom just doesn't give up on these three points.

She is a good mother who is sometimes strict and sometimes kind, but in these situations she can't seem to let go of me and pampers me.

Well, I'm grateful for her feelings but.....my body has already entered pubescent stage and it's kind of difficult to bath or go to bed with my mother.

Eating meal together is perfectly fine, but the remaining two are..... 。

Naturally, when we talk about baths, I along with mom enter stark naked.....furthermore, were family members so mom doesn't even try to hide her front using a towel, and asks to wash each other's back.

Well after the bath is somehow over, during sleeping time mom forcefully sticks to me and to top it off, her sleeping dress is a really transparent negligee. Just saying "Good Night" she tightly hugs me and I end up as a body pillow for her. [TN: Can i really kill this bastard.]

What's wrong with my mom's idea of cultivating a child's aesthetic sensibility?

I have requested to her to enter bath alone and to make the bedrooms separate but she always shoots down the idea with "Don't want to" otherwise "You can't" furthermore, if I try to do so secretly she somehow senses it and stops me.

It's not like I'm not happy with it. As a child, I'm happy for her motherly love.

But look, when will the the unbalanced desire and the unreliable self-restraint break, when i think about it it's scary. Even as a joke, if I am her son.

I have persuaded myself saying "This is my mother, This is my mother, This is my mother", but it seems like recently there have been cracks popping in my protective wall. It really doesn't feel right.....

Well I can feel that I'm being loved and I don't feel anything bad in there. But that is only for my mom loving me as her "SON". I today too believed in my Iron heart and fought against temptation.

But,

So that I can maintain our mom and son relationship, My fight against temptation.....suddenly headed towards it's end.

In a way it's the worst, but in a way it's the best.



How did it come to this.....?

Although I was careful, to not betray my mother and as a proper son.....

That was, the relationship i built through hard work.....right now is ruined.

On the bed are, a pair of man and woman.

The shoulders are upon each another's shoulder and straddling. The breath is heavy. Obviously it can be seen they are aroused.

Well, it's not strange for a man and woman with good relationship to go

to a certain extent. And we are in the relationship of “mom and son”.

We’re not even blood related, oi, that’s not the problem here, I don’t want to betray mom’s expectations. That mother who raised me by giving a lot of motherly love.

.....Despite that,

Looks like the barrier at last burst and overflowing

The actions changed to “Forcibly Pushing Down” action and looks like the lust has bared it’s fangs.....

.....Mother’s lust that is•••••.

“—hey what the hell!?”

“It’s alright, Minato, it’s not at all.....scary, right? (slurp)”

No, it’s too damn scary you know!? I’ve got a lot of life experience piled up contrary to my looks, even the me who is a full fledged adult is scared by the current you!

No, I never even thought about it, I’ve been betrayed of my expectations.

I never thought, I would be assaulted even before I attacked.



Enter the Bed.

Get inside the blanket.

Being kissed a goodnight kiss (forcibly) by mother.

Sleep.

That is how, my daily going to bed process advances, but today it is.

Pushed down forcibly on the bed.

The pajama are ripped off.

The kiss with no relation to the word 'goodnight' is given.

I'm attacked.

Un, Completely out.

After bathing, I thought that only sleeping was left, but in front of me was my mother having a different atmosphere from usual.

Something like , that.....black aura sort of thing was oozing out.

I kind of remember that her breathing was also rough "Haa, haa".

'Her eyes are also still, I wonder what happened' by the time I thought that, I was already pushed.

Just like that, the process 2 and 3 were done, repeatedly.

"I can't become a husband anymore....."

I want to judge what happened just now.

"Ahaha, Sorry Sorry, It's my first time in a while so I got a little too excited."

Maken no Daydreamer Chapter 1+2+3 Part 4

Now: Morning

Me : Sentimentally heartbroken.

Mom: Shining body and big grin on face.

In the voice of my mother having the tone of accomplishing an important task, really infuriates me, my mother has no sign of remorse at all. Not at all.

I don't know whether I should say this or not, but we two are greeting the morning while being in the bed together.

It's just that, the two were both in the form they were born in... or not, they both were wearing their pajamas.

As a matter of fact, I don't remember wearing it. Because I lost my consciousness due to the loss of stamina, so I don't remember anything from that time.

Seems like that after I fainted mom took me too bathroom, washed me, put pajamas on my body and then put me to sleep on bed.....good job to me for not waking up.

"Come on, don't be in a bad mood now! IT's not like you are an virgin girl who was attacked. This is a road every person passes through once or

twice, see?"

".....Well that is true just if the other party is not the mother."

mostly, the example is pretty near that itself.

Even so, this mom of mine, while wrapping herself around me is saying 'Don't want to leave~♪', I couldn't do anything other than sigh at such an personality.

"Well then, I wonder from where I should tell you?"

Abruptly mom speaks up,

"What is it all of a sudden?"

"Nh? Ah, I was thinking it is about time I tell you the reason, why I did "that" to you last night and in that way."

"Reason, huh? Isn't it you just giving in to the carnal desires and corruption while blocking the logic and common sense, right?"

".....Where did you learn these words?"

"From the books inside mom's room."

It a lie. I learnt them in my previous life.

Well, not like I can say it out loud.

Or is it that I'm actually right? No I actually did think it would be like that. Looks like I have to change the way I act around her and my views towards her from now on.

"Was I really early to do this to 10 year old child? I thought that the children in this age range keep thinking about perverted things without a reason, So I thought I could do it in a natural way but....."

As hell it would go naturally!!

And my mom speaks in a little embarrassed expression.

"Ahaha, well the reasons given by Minato are also true but there is another reason for that act, please hear me out? It might sound like I'm making excuses and....."

Then in one breath.

"It is also something I absolutely have to tell you....."

.....? Looks like it isn't just some excuse.....?



'I'm not a blood related to mother.' with such a phrase mom's story started.

I was an abandoned child within some forest (not this forest it seems) and she took me. Well yeah, I had a hunch that we aren't blood related parent and child.

Even so I have no complaint, mom being how she is still raised me up with her love, it doesn't matter whether we aren't related by blood.

At the very least, I am really grateful that mom didn't care whether I was an abandoned child and took me in and raised me like her own son.

"Well, I can never forget that time at all. When I saw you in the forest abandoned I thought 'This will turn out a good toy for time killing.' and took you in."

80% of the appreciative feeling just vanished right now.

No wai!? huh, FOR REAL!? I was taken in by her with such a damned motive!?

"Ah don't get any misunderstandings by it? I didn't had any intention for doing something weird to you from that time, it just that I thought that by raising a child it would kill time easily."

"Well, that alone is enough for it to be imprudent."

What the hell, I was taken in by mom with the intentions like "Let's try raising him for killing time". So was I taken in by her like a stray dog taken in as a pet!?

Well, the result is not so bad so I won't speak anything but. I have no complaints about the way mom has raised me no complaints at all..... except for her motives.

But the thing I heard right after that was a truth that is too hard to digest.

Seems like, the time I was picked up, I was in a near-death condition.

According to her, my life energy was almost depleted and even mom's powerful healing magic was of no use.

Naturally, the recovery power of infants and old aged people are really, so the effect of the recovery magic takes a lot of time compared to young people.

You ask how did my mom save me? She pulled off a tremendous underhanded trick.

There my mom, used some.....magic and changed me from an infant to a fetal state.

The aforementioned, increase in life energy to match the body size couldn't be done, so she matched by body to that of life force. That even if it's a little life energy it should be sufficient for my 'life'.

Maken no Daydreamer Chapter 1+2+3 Part 5

And that me in fetal state was.....know what? put me inside her belly!

Inside her womb, I was just like a child being born inside of her.

Inside her belly I was plenty enough recovered, erm rather, I once again "grew"

and she waited for the time the "foetus" grew into an "infant"and gave birth to me naturally.

In other words after I was born into this world, I was abandoned by my biological parents, and then taken in my mom's belly and for one more time was given birth. In short, I have experienced the 'birth' two times in this world.

"A, Are you alright doing something like that!? That magic hundred percent stinks of forbidden arts !? There is no side effects right!?"

"Nh? No, "stinks of" pfft, it actually is forbidden magic. Well if a human used it then side effects may occur but you see, I am awesome, that's why no worries at all."

".....Is that so"

Well this mom of is a 'succubus' after all. And for this mother of mine something like that is an easy cake. I knew from the start she was an

great witch, so I'm not minding her using something like that. For better or for worse, at least she doesn't lie.....

"And, it's not like that was my first time giving birth to a child."

".....Ha!?"

Oi wait! That's something really new! 'The shocking truth part 2'. what the hell, so do I have a elder brother or sister!? Hell I don't know them, I haven't met them and for god's sake I've never heard this story at all!?

On my mom's question "huh? Did I not tell you", I nod my head with full power.

According to my mom, I had plenty of elder brother and sisters, but they all left when they became independent and no one lived together.

From the word 'plenty', I can already guess uncountable number of siblings. It isn't my imagination right? Furthermore, what the hell is her age for them all to be independent.

Ah, i just remembered that succubus do have a long life. It's all the knowledge from light novels, though there might be differences but at the very least they live for 1000 years. Really what the hell is my mother's age.

Further the 'succubus' are a lewd tribe from the start, hahaha.....They copulate with the opposite gender they like and even make babies. Seems like even my mother was not an exception.....well it's a little shock

for me, but not something that is hard to digest.

Even though I know that, but.....

Even so, would some someone go that far to save an abandoned child? How should I put it the cost-effectiveness is unbalanced. Though even for helping it seems like too much of a great debt to me. Even if a child's life is at line, she doesn't have an obligation to save it, right?

And as if mom sensed my questions.

"You see at that time, I decided I would live here for a while with my spare time."

"Spare time?"

"Un, Actually....."



Approximately 10 years ago, my mom took up a request from the king of a certain country she was at good terms with

"Friggin wait!? King!? Where did king pop out from!? What does it mean by good terms with!? What the hell is the personal request from the king!? Eh, is mom really a great person!?"

“Shut up and listen”

Mom persuaded me saying that ‘if you make a fuss with only this, the story won’t get anywhere’. Mumu.....Well, I’m curious but for the time being let’s hear the story.

So, the request was to carry and excavate an ‘magic item’ named as ‘The Coffin of Demon Progenitor’ from the historical ruins inside a dungeon.

From the books inside the ruins, it was found out that inside the coffin an ancient treasured something was sleeping. Naturally, the leaders of the country were delighted. That was not only because there was an ancient treasured something but also because it was something that had enormous value historically.

However, there were 2 problems.

One was, the coffin was protected with a very powerful barrier that would take 10 years to break, no matter what they did it never opened.

And the second was, that box had a dreadful curse casted onto it to protect it from treasure thieves. Due to curse, in the surrounding area of the coffin the demons appeared and their reproductive power wasn’t something to joke about.

In short, just by having the coffin, the demons in it’s area will keep attacking furthermore in a lot of numbers due to amplified reproductive power.

They gave up and tried to dispose of the coffin but it was useless due to the strong defense around the coffin, having said that, they couldn't actually throw it anywhere either. If they did that, in the area near the coffin, the demons will appear and will cause casualties in that area.

They couldn't throw it even in the adjacent country as it would become an international problem. They did some negotiations behind the scenes but still couldn't get the permission to even carry it over there.

The perplexed king, then chose the last resort as the last hope and relied on mom.

Seems like the king is an old friend of mom and she has relied on him many times, that is why she couldn't refuse his request. She thought of secluding herself in this forest and repel the demons while trying to dispel the barrier around the coffin. In the first place this forest already had a lot of demons and there was neither any settlement near this forest.

On this proposal, the king thanked her while wailing and gave her a reward as an advance payment which was rivaling to the amount of national budget. In addition, he even said, he would offer the 'treasured something' inside of the coffin to her.

However, this time the problem was on mom's side.

The barrier of that coffin, would still take 10 years to open even by my mother alone.....besides her ability there was a reason why she couldn't live that sort of life.

The race my mom is from 'succubus' has a special characteristic that if they don't take the 'energy' from external means through copulating with men at periodic intervals, they cannot preserve their own life.

For a vampire it is like sucking blood to live. If they don't it regularly their bodies will suffer from breakdown and their lifespan will also reduce.

It was the only weakness in my invincible mom. As long as this problem is not solved, she can't live inside the forest.

However, there was only one exception for the succubus to live without taking any energy.

That is the period of child raising. During the time of child raising all the desires of a succubus are suppressed, and in accordance to their maternal instincts they only concentrate towards raising their child.

Mom asked the king for giving him an orphan or some other child, and by the time she thought it would be a good idea to raise a child while doing the job, she found me and took me in.

So that's what it meant by 'time killing'

And the story goes back to the beginning. The surrogate birth episode.

And that's how, mom lived in forest and was repelling the demons

while raising the child 'me' and was also fighting against the barrier. That was her daily life but,

Just because I wasn't her blood related child, her 'suppression' effect wore off before than normal and day by day her desires came back.

So, her desires reached her limits and that's how the things went that way last night.

And, in addition to this mom also explained about 1 more thing about my body. It was about the non human parts in the human me.

When I ask mom with eyes speaking 'What does it mean?'. She continued her explanation,

According to her, even though it was for a small time, I was raised inside mom's belly and got nutrition from her. From my succubus mother.

After being given birth, I was raised by her mother 's milk. Furthermore, till I was 2 years old due to the lack of baby food.

For some reason, my body in that time was very fragile. Especially my stomach was weak, or rather delicate (?) due to it I wasn't able to eat baby food for a while. Is it the effect due to the birth?

By the way, the succubus can give mother's milk even without being pregnant, it's of their special traits. Looks like everything is possible in that area.

Just like that, from the time I changed from foetal state to infant. Due to the nutrition I got from mom accompanied with the succubus power, my body couldn't help but change.

During my growth period, thanks to the succubus power inside of my body, my body and magical power changed and mutated abruptly or so is my mom's opinion.

And so Mom with a face saying 'Though he looks like human, the insides are completely different', gently stroked my head. In her eyes, some sort of sorrow was present.

".....I have given you a lot of love in my own way, I had thought of being a good 'mother' till the end, but this is something I couldn't do anything with."

"Mother.....?"

"I'm sorry, Minato. For my selfishness and self-satisfaction, your body, is no longer human"

She said it in an apologizing tone. Though she always talks frivolously, but her this line was terribly meek, something like a serious matter.

Along with that it was an unneeded.....apology to me.

In truth, I don't give a damn about it. I was born in this world

(Reincarnated just to say) and was probably abandoned, and would have died if not for mom. She even used a forbidden art just to save me and also raised me.

What complaints will I have to a mother like this.

That's why,

"Mother....."

".....What?"

".....I'm hungry"

".....Fufu, it's already morning after all. Well then let's eat the breakfast?"

".....Un!"

It's not like the relationship between me and mom will change after this. I am me and mom is mom.

For the time being, I wake up from the bed and head over to kitchen to eat the breakfast made by mom. Just like always.

Most probably this will go on like this from now on too.

You got a problem? No matter what anyone says, we are parent and

child.

Chapter 4 – Proficiency Test Part 1

I climbed to the stairs of adulthood, understood the reason for my mom living here, furthermore I found out about.....the secrets of my birth. After that night, my daily life changed a lot.

The Training inside of the menu made by mom was more harder to increase the succubus power and magical power, and I was told to memorize all the techniques used in practical fights. Well, I was already thought the training would be harder from before so it's not a problem.

It must be due to this only, that I am slowly improving my skills, some may think my words as self-praise though.

Even during the sparring with demons from forest, I'm undefeated from some time now. And that even applies to the multiplied monsters due to the curse of the coffin my mom is working on. Furthermore, due to the effect of curse they are strong than normal monsters.

Well, I still taste dirt when fighting mom.

By the way, looks like mom is still having hard time against that coffin. She said that the barrier is more complicated and will take some more years.

It is not even needed to think that there are other reasons too. Due to taking care of a child 'me', she couldn't give more time to her work and the time has been extended from the original completion time.

But, I don't have any reason to bring something in the talk which mom is not minding about, even if I apologize it will only feel awkward. So I have decided not to think about it.

And then along with those changes, I was told about the special characteristics about the succubus tribe from mom.

Somehow, due to me having the power of succubus, my so called magical power is in some way different to that of a human.

According to my mom, it is due to me being a human and also having the body of Incubus.

[ET: I will change Succubus to Incubus where he refers to himself. And it will not remain Succubus when he refers to his mom or the race/tribe in whole. BTW both words are spoken and written in same way in Japanese.]

Having a great volume of magical power.....is also a characteristic of succubus,

And so, it is essential for me to remember the fundamental knowledge.

"Succubus"

The demon which specialises in sexual work and is usually seen in fantasy novels and manga.

They have to copulate with men at periodic intervals and replenish their

energy.

They can not only with human but can also have child with any other race.

There are only women in Succubus.

Well for them to be a 'Tribe with lot's of love' it might be a characteristic that can be agreed, most probably everyone thought [What the hell?] reading the above lines.

Yes, the 3rd point [There are only women in Succubus]. This is the part you're being concerned about, right? and What am I then, right? [Just think of 4th Wall breaking.]

According to mom, I am probably a mutated being.

Normally, when a succubus makes a child with any race there are some rules. If the child is a boy then 100% he is from the same race as that of it's father.

On the contrary if it's a girl, then there is 50% chance for father's race and 50% chance of being born a succubus.

Just, in my case, the birth was even out of extraordinary. I think there is no surprise if anything happened as the magic she used was also forbidden.

And I mutated. I was born as a man having the power of Incubus.

And the problem is, the 1st rule rather than the 3rd rule.

As I told you before, those sort of acts are like that of a vampire needing blood. Refusing to that duty not only means having pain and hard time to deal with lust and desire, but also my lifespan will shrink.

Is, that the same for me (male) too, I asked mom. Well, If I get told that I can't [Absorb] the energy, I will die no doubt about it.

From what my mom says, there doesn't seem like a problem yet.

I still don't know whether it is due to mutation or there is no need for it, due to me absorbing my own male energy that is being made inside me.



After 3 years from then.

This is about the morning after I became 12 years old.

When I woke up, mom was not there. She was nowhere in the house, neither in bedroom, kitchen or bathroom, living room or storehouse. Nowhere!

This is very rare. Unless mom has some errand to do, she wakes up along with me. After all we have made a rule that the first who wakes up first, will wake up the second.

While thinking it to be suspicious, when I come to the dining room.....

".....What is this?"

On the table, there was a mysterious letter with "To Minato (<3)" written on it.

What is this bad feeling coming from it.....or [perhaps I should say, it reeks of the smell of an idiot.

I timidly (in every meaning) open the letter, and there was,

『To Minato

By the time you read this (is it before breakfast?), I will most probably be caught and put in the carriage of some slave dealer.』

O.K, let's calm down and think for a moment.

What the hell is this situation? In addition what the hell is this content? Just for what shitty reason is a story like this written in a letter which I have seen right after waking and before eating breakfast.

Calm down me, this might be a message given to me by mom and that is hard to understand.

Anyway, let's try reading it further.

『Ah by the way, this is not a message with deep meaning, it is exactly like I have written above, so don't try to think this has some hidden or deep meaning to it, do you get it?』

I seriously surveyed my surroundings.

Yeah, let alone mom there ain't a damn single thing around.

No, it really is scary because that person may use mind-reading magic on me.

Th-The continuation is more tiresome to read in parts, let's read it in one go.

『Well, if you're thinking what is happening. You see this is a kind of test.

Rules are simple.

Minato must right after reading this, make preparations, leave the house, and come to save me. If you make full use of the training knowledge and skills, something like chasing is really easy.

You must use the performance you have or had before you come to save me as a reference, I was also thinking of improving your comprehensive abilities. So aim for full mastership of succubus powers.

Along with that, there is 1 precaution.

Of course, I got caught on purpose. I will act like a “powerless and careless normal woman” to get caught. As a part of test. No matter what they do I won’t resist. You have to come and save me.

That’s why, if you are late in saving me, I will end up in a big trouble.

Specifically,

(Freedom Restriction)

And that’s how it is so work hard.

『From Mom

P.S. Come only after you have eaten the breakfast! Taking care of Body is Important』.

Maken no Daydreamer Chapter 4 Part 2

.....Un, I completely understand now.

“What in the friggin hell is that mother doing——?”

I forcefully throw the letter in the dustbin. Of course without eating breakfast, wore the usual training uniform swiftly, and while taking objects seeming that they will be needed, I immediately left the house.



(POV changed to Lilyn)

The mountain road is at a distance of 1 day from the nearest city when using a carriage.

On that road, a group of illegal ‘Slave Merchants’ carrying me in of their carriages, were heading towards the south.

I was sitting while hanging down my head in a carriage full of many girls and women.

Under the name of ‘Disarmament’, they took our every clothes except the lingerie, and are gazing at us with eyes that don’t hide their lust.

Aside from the kidnapped and thieves there are two people sitting in

the carriage driver's seat. There are even more number of people in the other carriages. In total.....over 30 people. For a slave dealing group, there are a good amount of people with them.

These 30 people, are in all divided in 5 carriages, and are transporting personnel and commodities (slaves included). The carriage I am in is the carriage with the task of transporting commodities.

Inside the the same carriage, there are many girls and women who are wearing old rags. Every one is with good appearance, and all will give good price if sold as slaves.

"Hehehe, We have gained very unexpected harvest, Boss"

"You're right. Guhehe, we have gained so many girls, and beautiful girls only..... They all will sell with a good price."

The vulgar voices along with vulgar laughs of vulgar thieves can be heard. Yep, Vulgar.

Oh Geez.....people like them never cease to exist in any era.

The thieves are, moving the carriages at a constant speed and are aiming for a city, which will take another 2 days to reach.

And over there, they will either sell us of as slaves or to a buyer from some brothel to gain money.

Well now for this "test", will Minato be in time? I did write in letter, the time limit is the sunset tomorrow.

.....huh, did I write it? No, I feel like I have written it, or not.....? Well it's fine either way. There is no doubt that this much time limit is reasonable. He will be able to understand it.

If you're wondering why the time limit is the sunset tomorrow. Minato can easily catch up to a normal carriage running at normal speed. But the more time is a bonus for him to worry about what to do if he couldn't catch up to the carriage.

And one more reason. At the sunset tomorrow, this carriage will reach the nearest city.

The slave dealer, will deal some slaves as a broker, or in the brothel in cities like this. That's why it won't be good if he couldn't catch up to this caravan and save me.

In the 7 years, I have driven all the practical skills into him. On the contrary he thinks about things even I can't think of, and with his creative power, he surpasses my expectations many times.

He has been researching about magic and has invented some original magic too, from when he was small, and that so, from the time before i recognised him as a 'man'. And his original magic are so complicated that even an researcher from a country will have trouble finding the magic's true nature.

The talent of magic and talent of researcher are inconsistent, ever evolving good talents. Really, being my son, he really is fearful.

This task is in complete degree of difficulty he can easily complete.

If he uses all of his technical skills to full extent, and chase after my traces. He will easily catch up to the group I'm with.

Well that is only the case, if he doesn't fall into panic after reading the contents of the letter and even leave the clues for tracing me.

If he couldn't concentrate, I can never give him any passing marks.....

However,

I have written in the letter like that, so I doubt about it. I don't want to become a mother who leaves some deep scars on the heart of a child.

Though the Succubus love that 'sort of thing', but we choose our partners and care about our child, family too. More than anything else.

Well, I resorted to this method, for Minato to become serious and desperate.

When I was thinking that, at that moment.

—DoGan!! DoGann, DoGgAnnN!!

"—Nh?"

Seems like outside there is some ruckus?

Eh, No way , did he come already? I thought that for a second, but there is no way that is possible.

There is no way he could come so fast, not so much time has passed too. For coming till here he has cross the rocky mountains where there is bad footing, and he has to take a detour towards the river to cross the bridge too (Minato cannot fly, after all.). And many other problems too.

Then, the other options left are, maybe bandits? Or Goblins or Orcs who live in the mountains.

And then, the man watching over me and others also seemed to know what was happening outside. Just at the moment he tried to look outside the carriage.

—*Snap*

"GuGaa ?!"

All of the sudden the man shouts in a thick sounds. Looks like he got hit from someone outside (Or 'Something'), the man then does a somersault and gets inside the carriage.

Well then who was the one who did this.....Nh?

There only seems to be presence of one person outside.

And in the next moment,

The owner of the presence and the punch which sent the man flying (with a somersault) enters without hiding his wild breath.

.....What?

".....Isn't this just too early?"

"Just that much!? Is that the only thing you need to say to the son you made worry by leaving the house and only left behind that crap letter!? Is that the only thing you say to your son who has ran at top speed and came to save you and has completed his test!?"

My son who betrayed my predictions, was unbelievably worried about me and was shouting at me while dripping with sweat.

Chapter 5 – Promise and Tears (1)

Oh geez! This mother is just!

What the hell is with 'Isn't it too early' to her son who just ran on top speed and finally reunited with her!? Well, she might have set up this test with this much difficulty.....but still!

.....Anyhow,

Seems like Mom was thinking, it would take more time for me to find her.....rather, it was supposed to be like that.

According to mom, she was to judge my data processing abilities and survival instincts in this test.

By the way, I will explain the actions I took to reach here, in short.

Flashback Starts!



"What in the friggin hell is that mother doing—!!?"

Well, while yelling, I left the house.

Naturally, I wear gauntlets and shin guard on my training clothes and took some equipments used in training and etc and then I leave the house. Sorry I rush out of the house.

I dash forward through the forest, and enhance my 'sense of smell' using magic. I use that smelling power to find mom by tracing the 'magical scent' left behind by her.

The people who are thinking 'You can use magic !?' , wait a bit more I'll tell you a little later.

While running earnestly through the forest (of course sprint power and various others are also enhanced through magic), I encountered many demons.

There were monitor lizards about the same height of a child, and grizzly bears obviously more bigger and powerful than my previous world.

But, there won't be an end to them if I take on every one. So i run away from them as much as possible. I earnestly keep on running while repeating side step or forward somersault evasion technique.

Or rather, if I don't chase her fastly, the smell of mom will get erased by the scent of animals. Is this also included in test. Damn it.

Well, me and mom are always together with each other from morning to evening, even sleeping time. So I won't ever make a mistake in knowing my mom's (magical) scent but still it's not good to lower down the guard.

In this world some animals contain magical energy with them. Let's hurry up before their magical scent gets stronger.

While thinking that I release the limiter I never release even during the training and by increasing the circulation of magical power inside by body.....I accelerate.

In addition to that, I use all skills I made in secret and have not even shown to mom. Thanks to them I accelerate my running speed to my body limits.

Strengthening my sprint power and cardiopulmonary functions, I run through the forest in a super deluxe dash skill.

And finally I exit the forest, uh-oh, the road here is a place I've not even come along with mom during training.

I carefully and vigilantly start walking forward.

or so I thought for a moment, but I don't have time, let's keep solving trouble along the way using manual power.

Say hello to the rampaging bull. I decide to either evade or hit and run.

After reaching a place with bad footing with walls. With my all might I run along the rock wall ignoring the obstacles and bad footing on the ground surface.

Before Right foot sinks in I put my left foot forward and vice-versa. Whoa awesome, I am running on the water's surface, short distance though. I can do what I put my mind to after all.

Anyhow, near 3 hours passed while running.

Based on experience, probably, maybe I have ran 4 or 5 times more than a marathon race.

After all that, I considerably came close to the place mom is at.

After crossing 1 mountain and 2 rivers, I am now facing against my 2nd mountain. While being cautious, I decelerate my speed on the mountain road. Still my speed is that of a car and then,

It's there! In front of me! The carriage group having a sort of known feeling around it.

How should I say it, it gives out a feeling like it's full of hooligans and also seems suspicious. And yet with so many crap, it has a sturdy and good looking locks placed on it. It's appearance coincides with the description given by mom some time before about illegal slave dealers carriage.

Mom's scent is also coming from there. The character of people on the load-carrying carriages seems evil too. Yep, slave carriages confirmed!

And, the first one to strike wins.

"Attack!"

"Nh? Did you hear somethin—waa!?"

""!?"""

For the time being, I jump and ram attack to one person who seemed like a guard and was sitting outside the carriages. The man who got a attack on his collar bone, soared in the air and disappeared in the brushwoods alongside the road. Huuuuh, h-he isn't dead, right?

And everyone becomes dumbfounded upon seeing their one comrade soaring in the sky due to a thrust by a small boy. After being in that state for a while they return back to reality.

"Y-You bastard, who are you!?"

"What the hell you trying to do, just coming out of blue and ramming into us, huuh, rascal!?"

"Like I fucking care about that! Just return my mom back already!!"

I just blurt out the main point rather than crap talk. This is a basic.

"What the hell? Haha, this rascal came here to get his mother back,

hahaha”

“Wee wee Really sentimental. Gyahahaha”

And, after guessing my situation from my line, the robbers laugh in creepy manner.

They keep on laughing, on seeing a child, me, who did foolish and brave actions to take back my kidnapped mom.

Well they are completely off the right track. My mom got herself kidnapped on her own will.

“Sorry, maggot, ya mom now our commodity. You see we ain’t returnin her back to ya.”[Some new guy entered and spoke in somewhat good gangster like lines.]

“I don’t know ‘which’ one you’re talking about, but all great material so we can’t return it.”

I see. So some other girls are also captured along with mom. Well, let’s save them all, it’s not like they have some sins that require them to be here.

“He–y, this bastard is saying mother, was there any slut looking like that?”

“Who knows, a mom with black hair and black eyes, wait, there ain’t any

slut with age that will be his mother.”

Ah, Yep, mom and me don’t look alike after all~. Mom has blond hair and me with black hair (exactly like the previous life)

In addition, mom is a ‘succubus’, the race that lives very long. Due to that, even I don’t know her real age. Her appearance is absurdly young and pretty. She looks like a person in his twenties.

.....But, for the time being—

“Leave it, all are great materials, if the buyer doesn’t know she has gave birth to 1 child, there’s no damn problem.”

“Yeah, how much money will she give us? Guhehehehe”

“Let’s kidnap this rascal and sell him too. Black hair is unusual and his face is also not bad. Maybe some Madame will buy him for pleasures, don’t you think?”

—For the time being, there is no need to restrain myself.

“Yo, maggot, we won’t do bad things to you, so silently come with us un—Gubooo!?”

I don’t have any reason to hear any more, so I punch the guy coming close to me.

gon

Punch lands on his chin and the..... unnamed thief A faints.

Well let's refrain from killing them.

I still don't know if this world follows the plot line of novels in which we can kill thieves and 'criminals' like them.

And, due to my previous life's sense of values, I don't want to willingly kill them.

Lets just punch them to faint, the rest I can ask mom.

While I was thinking that, the others were taken back and,

"Wha, You, B-Bast....."

"What the hell you doing"

Well, I doubt there is any person who won't go in rage after those sort of words.

But, they were still thinking that just a small child going on rampage. Does this world with magic not have the general idea of not judge a person on appearance?

Anyhow seeing 1 comrade (Ah, 2 comrades including the one from before) go down to taste dirt. Other kidnapper start releasing bloodlust and take out knives too. Against a child they take out those, so childish.

Hell with all this, I'm getting hungry.

Ah, I came here 'running' without eating breakfast. And right now it is noon, no wonder I'm getting hungry.

Alright, let's finish this up in some minutes.

Ah, the talk derailed a bit.

I think before I left the talk about why I can use magic. Let me finish that right now.

Just like I said before my 'magical power' was given to me by outside and disperses soon. My talent in controlling the magic is normal, and so it's not like I can't use magic at all, but it is limited.

I can make a small flame light, or do anything thing that some other can do if they have magic. But powerful offensive magic used by magicians or magic suited for fights is impossible.

If I forcefully try to do it, the magic may explode during concentration. Dangerous!

And there mom suggested 'Don't release magic out' and 'Don't let it fly

far' and then use magic somehow. Like storing magic in your body to enhance it and learn how to fight using martial arts.

I forget about letting magic out of my body, and started training on enhancing my skin and body parts. I trained, mastered both the magic and martial arts.

Well, in short hand-to-hand combat techniques included.

"Die!!!"

"thi-This rascal is WAAAH!?"

"What the hell is he, damn he is friggin strong to!?"

While the thieves are ranting, I more person faints from my reinforced fist. And that is how I fight using 'Magic' to "Enhance/Strengthen" my body.

In these several years, to cover my weakness of not being able to release magic outside, mom drilled the martial arts skills into me using the not-so kind and gentle training menus.

Furthermore, the movements of legs is all self-taught, there is no fixed 'Pattern' too, so it basically is always changing way of killing. [TN: In raws it said killing not fighting.]

And above my martial arts style consists movement from many hero

games and fighting games along with the martial arts shown in Hong Kong movies too.

Frankly, this is a pretty decent martial art style.

Due to training them for many years, the skills are already ingrained into my body and the useless movement have also reduced.

This is my PvP against someone else than mom but I have confidence I won't lose to these punks. Their attacks are slow and feeble if compared to my daily partners like mom and demons from forest.

Did mom even that in consideration, and choose these particular guys to be my sacrifices.

"Freakin Die!!"

"I refuse!"

I dodge the sword of the man coming from front by lowering my posture, and punch into his gut.

I punched a lot hard, so the man flies up 10 cm in the air, while releasing all the air in his lungs the man faints and crumbles down on the spot.

Immediately after, moving eyes in all directions for scanning, I do a roundhouse kick towards the back and take out one more person. The

two men who thought of taking my blind spots, flew horizontally and..... disappeared in the brushwoods.

Around this time only half of them are left. After all this time, the men here seemed have the bud named as 'Sense of Danger' sprouted inside their minds.

The men attacking me in rage stop and now they all surround me while waiting for me to show a gap.

I see, so now that foolish have gone only the careful guys re left?

Well, if you don't come I'll come from here then. I don't have any obligation to wait.

"—Fuu"

Exhaling a short breath, I jump towards the closest man and thrust into him.

He swings his blade in desperation. I dodge them by twisting my body, and with that momentum give a backhand chop to his neck. He staggers, and then takes my kick too and then faints.

Using the fainted guy as stepping stone I jump off and fly up 3 metres high and land outside the area with the crowd of people.

One rushes to me. I give a low kick to his face first and the punch with

force in his solar plexus.

One more rushes seeing the gap. I dodge it by jumping + rotating. With that momentum, I give a roundhouse kick in his medulla oblongata.

1 man aims for the time of landing and attacks with spear. I repel away his spear with the gauntlets and overenthusiastically send him flying away with a kick.

And then, one more spear attacks towards me. This time I forcibly snatch it and roll down on the ground and reach the place where every person is in the range of spear.

"Have fun—-!!"

""GuaaaaaAAaa—!!""

I make one full clockwise rotation at the best position available. I hit with spear to every person who were surrounding me.

And for the guys who staggered, I rotate in anticlockwise direction and give them the dessert.

I used the handle area to hit them due to my conscience.

After confirming every person is blown, I swing the spear and make a signature pose.....umm erm just forget about that.

Well, this was worthwhile for gaining hand-to-hand combat experience.

After confirming that the guys who were hiding have also gone, i went inside the carriage where mom might have been hidden.

There was one last person, I punch him and make him faint,

And then this,

".....Isn't it too early?"

.....So terrible, right?



Chapter 5 Part 2

Flashback Finished

And after releasing the captured girls. We bind up the slave merchant and using the 'summoned familiar' called out by mom, escorted him to the guard's base at the nearest town.

And now, I'm alone with mom.

Even though they are summoned familiars, but is it alright to let demons escort someone?

And, it seems like there is no problem in killing off the thief company. As expected, in this world the life of a criminal is not valued at all.

So, I reported how i came to rescue her (Running through the cliffs and running on waters et cetera). Now it the scoring time by the examiner, in short mom.

Results are.....

".....Well, now that you have come here, I have to give you passing marks. So, now you have passed and have achieved full mastership."

.....On the contrary to the good words, for some reason her eyes are not

laughing?

Normally in these situations, one would give praises to the child who just gave results that are more than expected and splendid too, right? No, it might be boasting to say that myself.

Erm, so why is she not so happy?

"It's not like I'm not happy. As a mother, as a teacher, I am proud and delighted at your more than expected abilities. But....."

.....But?

"Minato, from what I know, it should have been evening by the time you reach here, even if you use your abilities to full extent. In that case.....you have made new magic in secret and are hiding them. right? "

"Crap!"

Ah-.....

So that's why you were angry.

☆☆☆

The story goes back to some years.

The me having knowledge and memories from previous life, along with the creative power of a pubescent boy loving fantasy, started researching magic by myself not long after starting the training for magic.

At first it didn't go well, furthermore to deal the finishing attack, came the shocking truth of me not having talent in magic.

However, Somehow or other, I started researching about my original magic to heal my broken heart.

After all, things like these are what I admire for some reason.

Just by having the possibility of gaining my own magic or power that can't be used by others. My intellectual curiosity intensified rapidly.

Mom still watched over me, though being surprised.

Though I say that, in the eyes of mom I looked like a small child playing while thinking about my own magic. That is something normal in this world for childs to think about their own magic.

In my previous world, all I remember children doing is, acting macho, shouting 'I'll become a superhero in future' or 'I'll invent a great weapon'.

But, unfortunately, the me, mom was looking is not a normal child. I am the being having memories of past life, logical way of thinking and adults way of life.

Naturally, mom who had no way of knowing that secret payed no heed to me researching the original magic and regarded it as child's play.

.....The mom's negligence and lack of awareness of my doings, once invited a disaster.

While manipulating the magic inside my body, my original magic started going on rampage inside my body and exploded.

That time, neither me or mom knew about what had occurred,

But, seeing the blood dripping from my hand, and feeling the piercing pain that came a little late. I couldn't stand it and cried like a small child.

Mom came running to me in a panic whose face had turned pale and while healing me with magic, she was desperately trying to understand about the situation.

A few minutes later,

Mom heard about the situations and rest of things from me after healing most of injuries.

Though i say that, it's just that she listened to me earnestly instead of regarding it as fabrication.

Mom who heard it, didn't get angry.

No, she did scold me saying 'you did a really dangerous deed' but soon after that,

'Sorry' she said that, and hugged me while crying.

She scolded herself, saying that she never listened to me properly and so she didn't pay heed to my deeds and due to that I got hurt. And also said 'I won't get angry at you, after all, I never told you that it was dangerous.'

It's all 'you reap what you sow' so it's not mom's fault. I told her that many times but she didn't agree it. Mom couldn't forgive herself.

At that time, along with the sense of guilty,

it might be a little bit imprudent, but I seriously thought that I have been blessed with a really good mother and got happy.

And, Mom who now understood the 'research' I do is not 'child's play' but a full-fledged 'research' made 3 promises with me.

I always have to report the magic I have found during the research.

I always have to experiment the magic I have though when I'm with mom.

And I will not use the magic mom says as 'rejected' and will not tell it to others.

About the third one, I had some doubt due mom being the only person near me, well anyways,

From then, I faithfully followed the 3 promises, but recently, I forgot to report some really useful magic that got invented on whim.

It's a hassle to report each and everything, now I can also differentiate between magic, so I thought it would be okay to not tell.....but it's over by coming here.

I used some magic helping in accelerations and enhancement of physical ability.....conclusion, I got here at unreasonable speed.

"I never thought the training course for dealing with obstacles will be used to make new magic like this, am I right, minato?"

She is smiling a bit, her eyes are not.

I am bad at telling lies to her when she has those damn eyes.

"Eh...Ah, that.....Sorry"

—*Bashi*

.....Strange

I wonder why the mothers spanking is so painful, heavy and sad. It was the same in my previous life too and this life too.

The punches and kicks thrown at me in training are more powerful but why does this stir up my heart thousands of times more. It really is strange.

"I also know that you have become a good person now, so I don't have the right to do anymore or scold you and that's why I'll leave it with just this one shot, but....."

One shot

"But still I'm worried.....I don't want to have the feelings from that time before....."

"....."

"You have grown, have got good at magic, have got strong, can use strong magic skills now, but, that's why when I think about something like before happening again, I....."

"....."

"There are no people who don't make accidents even if they think of having one? Even if you think it's fine and all, but the things that is bound to happen will happen. That's why Minato, though my promise may be annoying and a hassle..... but please"

".....Sorry."

This time by bowing, I with all my sincerity apologized.

.....After all,

I have no other choice to take.....when you say something with those crying eyes and sincerity.



After that,

Mom's face went back to normal as if her crying face was a lie and we both headed our way back to home.

I passed the test. And I have got full mastership in strength and ability.

And, while on our way back to home, from what I heard this test was just as I expected not for knowing my 'battle ability.'

That is something i got a hint during the fight with thieves. These are too weak for me to even spar.

Perhaps, this was something like extra characters in the 'setting' mom put in the letter for making it seem more real and for me to get into

panic. Ah these were disposable extra characters by the way. Or she would have thought it would be good if I could also do some PvP training too while doing the test.

I'll leave the details but if I was serious those guys would have died. Even if they are scum, I still held myself back to not kill them because they can be judged by law.

Even mom easily understood that much. If one compares my daily training spar partners these guys were just too weak.

Compared to them, the demons I found en route to come to save mom were a lot stronger. Mom knows about my 'battle prowess' more than anyone else due to her always being my hand to hand spar partner.

She made a situation, to evaluate whether I can attack the enemy while keeping my judgement and calm.

Due to the clear time being too short, she couldn't evaluate everything and would evaluate at a later date with some other methods. I would like it to be within the bounds of common sense.

And naturally, I made a promise to tell her about every 'skill' I have.

It would've taken a lot of time to come while running, so Mom took me in her arms and we came back flying.

Flying through the skies is really great. It's depressing from the standpoint of someone with no talent.

.....While flying,

Mom speaks in my ears while holding me in the front,

"Minato, it is mom's fault to have deceived you."

"Nh?"

"I am really happy that you came to look after me with all your might?"

I am really happy for her to say that to me.

At the same time, I once again made my mind to not let her become depressed ever again.

Chapter 6 – Farewell and A Sudden Trip

TL Notes:

This is the last chapter of Volume 1

Several years later.

I polished my own skills and enhanced my strength in this house.

I did obtain Mastership but that is only for the 'skills'.

From mom's advice, the best way to compensate for the experience would be to train and take part in actual combat.

It's just that, my skills and strength got upped a lot, now the monsters from forest or surroundings are not a match, it feels unsatisfying.....

No, it's not good to criticise it. It's not like I'll always get a luxurious life.

Well that's how it is, I got a lot stronger.

The me who was a weak child with a little knowledge of martial arts, has come till here now. It's hard to imagine that it is me.

And, along with the training, I started taking lessons from mom to learn about the things in this world.

She said 'It's not like you can live here for your whole life, right?'

In other words, I will have to leave. Yes

From after my classes started, I started to think like.....Ah, this really is another world.

First of all, in this world there are a lot of races besides humans, like elves and dwarves called as demi-humans. Their kinds are.....let's just keep it as there are many because it will be pain in the ass to explain.

Though there is no competition between races regarding social status or something between those lines, but there are differences in like and dislikes between them.

The other thing is that this world doesn't have the science and technology as advanced as previous world. Well, in short this world gives out each and every feeling of a cliched fantasy another world.

And, here comes the entrance of the cliched regular another world routine 'The adventurer guild'. They are spread out throughout the world, in every country.

Just like it says, it is a 'guild' affiliated with adventurers. It's not like the government managements it is somewhere between the lines like 'It has scope of activity outside the national borders' and 'It has branches and headquarters'

Adventurers are, well, just those like those cliched people going for adventures in places a normal person can not wander to.

And, the society or guilds of adventurers play somewhat important role. And for becoming adventurers in that society it is good to learn bit by bit.

Just like that, mom made me learn everything that seemed useful for the me who has a complete 'mastership'.

It was not all kind and warm but was hard and cruel, but I want to thank her for that. Due to that, I didn't drown in power and grew easily (I Think).

.....I had not in the least idea that those good days will come to an end suddenly.



One Morning,

When I woke up, mom wasn't there.

'Did she went out in late night?' or so I thought, but she didn't come back even after the morning practice ended.

After that, while racking through her study room, I found a letter on the top of desk.

‘Don’t tell me?’ I thought that and in a panic opened the letter, but the contents were not about a new test but something else.

In simple words, it was a farewell letter.

『You have become a lot stronger and are now a good adult. That’s why don’t just wander in this house always and go out to a journey. I am also going out on a journey.』

.....Something like that was written.

Welp, this person really does take the craziest actions till the bitter end. Seriously.

To just leave out of here by leaving a letter saying ‘going on a journey’ really this person.....

For not pampering me she left me without any previous notice. She didn’t leave me her disciple, son a place to return at all.

It is cruel, but the way has somewhat parental love mixed.

This mother of mine, showing off some old movies master’s actions.

It is sad but I’m deeply moved by her parental love.

.....All the things above are what I couldn’t do or feel.

That is because the precious 'farewell letter' was written on A4 size paper and consisted about a 100 pages. The long and really long letter.

.....Mom, did you have some lingering affection left.

After taking mom's feelings—both physically and mentally. I was greatly perplexed and breathe a deep painful sigh. It's not like I could've thrown the letter so I went ahead and read it.

☆☆☆

『To Minato,

I am writing this letter with great pain as if I'm cutting my body in pieces. I am always.....』

Let's cut up most of crap from here after.

So in the beginning it was something like this. The introduction was a full-fledged love letter. And not less than 50 pages, after that crap

Oy, now comes the main part.

Mom, do you have no talent in writing compositions?

『Well then, Minato. Mom's feelings for you are not limited to just this

much and are a lot more but it's time to almost write the main part.』

Her tone change, right?

Well it's fine.....so?

『You now have more than enough power to live your life as a first class adventurer. While having that much power, it is not good to be always be a shut-in. It's already time for you to know the world. So leave the house and travel around the world to know it better.』

In other words,

This time right now, while I'm reading this letter. I got the permission to roam out in the world.

『You had the power to live off outside in the world 1 year ago already, but it took me to prepare my heart to leave you a small 1 year.』

.....It was also written.

No, It were your personal feelings!? You just due to your personal feelings stop your son's travel time by 1 year and kept on pampering me! Is that alright, master!?

And the meaning that you prepared everything 1 year ago..does it mean that you cleared the mission of destroying the 'coffin' too by that time, master!!?

I bear with the fatigue that suddenly came knocking at me, and look over the letter once again.

『This one year was really long. I'll leave tomorrow, I'll leave tomorrow while thinking that I tried to leave, but Minato your angelic sleeping face always held me back.』

Sigh. Love letter comes back.

Omitting the rest 100 pages.

『Ah, sorry, sorry. I got into heat. Let's get back the real talk.....』

Just tell me already.

『Welp, that is how it is, so go on a journey. That way you will get to learn a lot more things. My familiar will do the cleaning and rest so don't worry about it at all.』

I see. No anxiety left. Just live and travel freely.

My ass. And where the hell did she get her familiar from?

『Think yourself about the things an adventurer needs. And about the items in house, you can take them as much as you want. Furthermore, this is a farewell gift from me.』

And, right after reading that,

As if some sort of magic trick was placed on that word, on the desk an item like object appeared along with smoke.

Was it placed that it would appear if read that word. I don't know what technique it was but yes, complete waste of advanced magic.

The item was a bag seeming like a backpack model.

Ah, I remember this thing. I remember correctly, inside this is an distorted space and has tremendous storage capacity. Alias 'Storage Backpack'. Just like those cliched item boxes type. I'm grateful for this.

Inside it was a indigo blue colored book with words written with golden color on the cover page. Furthermore this ain't some normal book. It has a strange type of magic feel to it. It might be a magic book

Title is....."Necromecon"?

Once again something great. Ain't this the famous fantasy world magic book. Is this real?

And, it was accompanied by a memo.

『This is what came out after breaking the 'Demon Progenitor Coffin'. I read it all, so I'm giving it to you.』

So easily!? Is this easily alright!?

I thought it was a dangerous and powerful magic book but are you really going to give it to me as if giving some left-overs from dinner.

And the last,

It seems like an equipment set for adventuring.

isn't this also all cloth. It has different feels when put on though.

First the gauntlets and leg armor. They seem perfect for my fighting style.

Both are jet black as if it will drown me but are shining with gloss due to reflection of light. I don't know it's raw materials. I think it might be metal.

Next is, training clothes sort of clothes for easier movement. The torso is sleeve less and the bottom is long pants. Both are black in color and have some lines of violet color in it. It is cool and awesome and all but it just gives more mysterious feels too.

And here once again a black overcoat. On it something like ancient words is tattooed in.

And the last, a black belt.....?

No, it's more like kimono belt?

That's right, the black belt an advanced karate student wears.

And I discover a list sort of thing written in the letter.

According to it,

"Gauntlets & Leg armor" (made from Joker metal)

"The Darkness Cloth" ← Clothes

"Overcoat of Grim Reaper"

"Mom's Handmade Black Belt"

I see, so gauntlets and leg armor have no name.

But what the hell is 'Joker Metal'? I ain't heard about it ever?

And "Darkness" and "Grim Reaper",

Clothes and overcoat, both smell of cursed names, is it alright to wear them?

And your hand-made belt !?

No, well, it's her hand-made and she is giving it to me at this moment it won't be anything normal.....probably.

So then, let's look at their functions.

There are a lot of quirky and suspicious equipments. But well, she prepared them for me, I'll use them.

By the way,

Now that I think about it, if I didn't read this crap I would've left the house without these equipments, right? By all means there was reason for me to read this then.

If it's like that keep the letter short. If it wasn't for me, one would've ignored it.

While feeling lethargic, I once again run my eyes over the letter.

I read rest of contents (80% are love letter crap) with sincerity and tried to understand the situation.

Leaving the crap, there were warnings and the place I should depart to written. And it was written I would need special precautions due to my body constitution.

I reread the letter sometimes and droved the important things in my mind. And started preparing for leaving! By the time I finished.....

.....It was already evening.

.....I had no choice. I had to reread it to see if there was any other magic trick like before.

After reading a sum total of 659 pages (Is it a Kojien!!?) I saw the letter with bitter gaze and gave up on leaving the house today.

And, now that I think about it,

The night without mom besides me, is fresh or rather unsatisfying.....

No, honestly.....It feels sad and lonely.

Sigh. I can't live in this house anymore. Boring.

It will feel much better than living in a house without mom. It will also act as a diversion.

.....In the end, I'm have mother complex.



The next day.

I wake up at 4 in the morning and packed all the stuff in the backpack.

"Alright. nothing left!"

It will be alright. I already checked 3 times. I stuffed all the important things in this hyperspace bag (personally named it)

I wear the normal clothes along with the equipment mom left for me.

There doesn't seem to be any curse put on it. Yes, I'm glad it's normal.

And I stood in front of the magic circle inside mom's study's hidden door. It gives out the feeling of 'stand on me and I'll throw you to other side of world'

Is she able to do this to?

I would've be fine with a normal departure but in letter it was written 'If you want adventure styled departure with thrill then try this!'

If you say like that, I would obviously get my adrenaline high. I'm a male after all.

It's fine. It feels like a new journey's good departure.

I tried to recall all the 16 years I've lived in this house.

A lot of things happened. But well, a lot will happen from now on too.

After all, my world which consisted just me and mom will open up in one spurt.

I don't know what sort of meetings I will have in the outside world, but that itself is included in journey. Bring it On!

I tried to step on magic circle.....

I looked towards mom's letter once again before stepping on circle.

I tied it and put it inside my bag except the love letter parts.

.....It's ending part was,

『Minato, let's meet again somewhere, sometime later. Grow up as a good person and become reliable. I am excited from now already to meet the future you. I love you!

—From your pampering mom: Lilyn

P.S.

There might be a younger brother or sister of you made during the journey. At that time they are all yours ♪』

Leaving the last part every other parts permeates into the heart. No matter how much I read it.

And I don't think the last line is something you say to a child.

–Anyhow!

I now have to show mom the reliable me the next time I meet her. All Right! Then Let's go!

I slapped my cheeks to fill up my determination and jumped in the center of magic circle.

Immediately after,

I got wrapped in a flying sort of feeling and left the house.....flying through what seemed like another dimension road.

Volume 2 – Glass Wearing Girl and『Labyrinth of Naga』

Chapter 7 – Labyrinth | Beautiful Girl | Unexpected Accident

“—What the hell is this?” [ET: Says ‘何だべーこりゃ？’]

Yes, for some reason I said it Tohoku dialect, but I am really Minato.
And it's not like I'm a native from north-west Japan.

By the time I jumped on the magic circle in-house I was completely fine.

I really thought I will be sent out of forest to some plains, but I was wrong.

That's because the place I see in before, looks like a damn dungeon.

There is wall of stone and floor too along with torches like things on the walls. Though there are no windows present here.

For what reason did mom link the magic circle to this damn place?

By the way, that magic circle can be used one-way only, so no way to return back. It's not like I want to go back so it's fine with me.

But I even in my wildest dreams would think of having a dungeon in front of me after flying.

Anyway, it would be boring or rather damn silently boring if I don't do a thing, so I decided to look around for understanding my situation.

I came here while traversing through another dimension but there is no

damage or anything with the equipment. All things I have from tools to provisions are perfectly fine. The money mom left for me is also fine. Thank God.

Next, shadow training.

Punches, Kick, Flying Kick, Roundhouse Kick, Backhand Blow.

And with vigour tried to do a 3 turn flying kick, but gave up on it as I would collide with the ceiling otherwise.

So I checked my magic control.

Yea, I can use magic. Magic reload to hands and legs is also faster. No abnormalities.

Alright, Status Check Complete!

.....So I've now run out of all things I could do.

Anyhow.

Now that I think about it, it ain't normal to think about what to do inside an unknown dungeon.

Places like these, have some sort of purpose in them.

I think it's not inefficient to come here by default and think about 'What should I do?'.
In that case, there is only 1 thing I need to do now.

If I want to do something else, and I want more information, and so it

will be good to get out of here, right? Well then, now my next mission is to get out of this labyrinth like dungeon.

But,

After coming here, I met with a simple and serious problem and that stood in my way.

"How.....will I get out of here?"

I don't know what place this is and what sort of dungeon this is.

Before that, if this is dungeon is it filled with floors?

And it doesn't has any windows, So I don't know if I'm above ground or underground, and so I don't fucking know if I should go down or up.

This maybe more dangerous than being send to an unknown plains.

Hey mom, you there.

Ain't this hurdle too high for you son who was departing for a journey.

Well, for the time being, let's walk. I don't know any route from the start, so there is no chance for me to get lost or so.

Yea, I'm serious.

☆☆☆

(POV changed to???)

"Yo-you deceived me deviant! Coward!"

"What are you saying about? I am escorting a girl adventurer like you

who has got no damn fighting power. This is much service is natural right?"

"D-Don't joke around! I didn't had any intention like tha.....No! Don't touch me!"

Ku, it was a failure!

No matter how much fast I needed to come here, I shouldn't have taken a man like this with me!

I would've understood it before, if I was calm.

It all because of the rumours of treasure lying in this dungeon which I heard from fellow adventurers and guild.

The rumour is about the 'treasure rooms' which were hidden before the strong earthquake from some days ago broke down the walls hiding them. In reality, many have already been discovered.

I had some reasons for getting money so I urgently came here prepared, before anyone other discover them.

And even I felt uneasy doing so alone, so searched for a similar adventurer who seemed free, but looks like I failed in selecting the right person.

Even though I didn't had time to search thoroughly, but why this guy.....!

He didn't show his true colours right after entering the dungeon. He can't use magic, but can fight and has repelled many demons by now.

Just when thought, that this dungeon's level is not so high and will work out one way or other but it came to this.

After moving a little more in dungeon and just the moment we came to a place with low monsters, this guy shows his true colours.

"I was thinking today to go to brothel in the night , but you're a great thing I found."

"Leave me you Pervert! To do it here, you sane!?"

"It's arousing those strong willed eyes and face. I wonder what face you'll make a little later."

I tried to push him aside, but he's a man and to top it off he's a robust well-trained adventurer. Even I am trained well, but the difference in power is obvious.

In short, this man (don't fucking care about his name!) put his hands on my clothes.

My clothes are made for moving easily, and due to that it has more exposure of skin than normal clothes. If one thing of taking them off they can do so easily.

A high-grade one will be different, but this was the best I could get based on my strength and funds.

While I was looking in amazement, he tore off my garments and armour too now the only thing that is covering my upper body is under garments.

The cold air inside the cave comes in contact with my skin directly. Without paying attention to that, the lustful eyes of the man in front of me move towards the lower part of my body which is still covered with armour.

I found out cold sweat running down my cheeks.

My stiff face which was full of confidence soon distorted with fear. That is due to the smile that spread on the man's face and also due to the bad feeling.

"Stop it! Help me!"

"Hehehe, no one is gonna save you!"

I was also thinking the same within my mind.

This place is at the corner of the path in which even monsters rarely ever come. There's no way a person who can save me will pass through.....

.....But, at that moment

“Now obediently Guboaah!!!”

—Smack

“!?”

Suddenly the man sitting on top of me flies horizontally and crashes into the wall. It's as if someone punched him flying away.

Eh, What? What happened just now!?

And then,

From my front, came an hysteric sort of voice.

“Noo!? It's bad it hit someone!?”

.....Who is that man?

☆☆☆

(POV changed to Minato)

It's bad! I made a mistake!

In the beginning I was exploring the dungeon (?) by walking, but from

the time I thought to try some skills, demons possessed me, ah damn it!

It's a hassle to roam slowly, so I used magic to accelerate.

I gained a lot of pace and searched here and there while running, but know what, it's kinda fun if you do it.

And this dungeon is not so complicated and is wide and spacious so it wasn't a problem to run.

And then, that, Er, got elated and ran in full speed.

The basics of traffic rule. Stop at the corners for a moment and after confirming there's no problem then move forward. If you don't, in distant future it might turn into something bad.

Well, it's already too late for that.

I get even more elated and accelerate a bit more than my full speed. I sprinted at the speed of a vehicle and then when I thought 'ah, crap, a corner's coming, need to decelerate'.....

But, after decelerating a bit, I tried to perform a daredevil's stunt of making a sharp turn at good speed around corner and this is what happened

—Smack!

Ah, not so good sound

"Noo!? It's bad it hit someone!?"

And the next moment, I sent someone who was at the blind spot of the corner grandly flying away.

And I have enhanced my body with magic. So I sent him flying with a not so powerful power for me but dangerously powerful power for the other party.

And when I came to my senses a bit later I found that someone (It was shaved beard old man) sunk into the wall just like what I've seen in manga only. aaa, what a great pose it is! But I can't laugh!

No you're wrong! I never had the intention to kill him!

It's just that while turning around the corner came a not so nice handsome old man and we clashed. It's not at all an intentional murder! And this might be a character elimination, so sorry for that.

Calm down. Who am I even trying to explain this to and, just when I thought that.

"E-Erm.....Excuse me?"

came a voice. What the hell, there was a witness too!?

I timidly turn back, and there was a single girl.

Her hair is of green colour and, is almost shoulder length long. Somewhere between long than semi-long hair and short than long hair. They are tied near the ends so as to not split easily.

Her face, has slightly sharp eyes, is HELLA pretty. Her face is full of vigor and what's more she is wearing glasses.

She is fair-skinned and her body is slender, but her hips, breasts, and hands and legs are toned better as if she has trained her body a lot.....

.....Nh? Breasts?

I then noticed her crouching on the floor half-naked.

The down part is not like that, but the above part is only the under garments left, that if just dislocated a bit you can see a lot of things.

And besides her, the clothes and armour are lying. It can be understood that she took them off just now.

Now then, what sort of situation is this?

Fumu.....

This is a dark place.....

Nice and handsome (?) middle-aged man.....

Half-naked beautiful girl.....

.....'Kay, I got it to somewhat extent.

"Erm, I'm sorry for intruding....."

"Wait there!"

I tried to leave from there as if I saw nothing at all, but suddenly that beautiful girl stopped me. The girl stands up from her posture and bends forward while holding the nape of her neck.

Wait, what!? What the hell is she doing, when I'm showing a good adult's cooperation and trying to leave them alone!?

"I know you have a lot to say, but you're getting a wrong idea here!"

"No, no-no no no, I didn't get anything wrong. I thought that the age difference was a lot but that is all up to the person's own preference. I have nothing to say at all? But yes, it's weird to do something like that in places like this....."

"That's all the thing you're getting the misunderstanding about! I was attacked! By this man!"

"Yes Assaulted.....what?"

Ah, so that's how it was?

So they didn't have that sort of relationship, or some sort of agreement?

"So don't get wrong problem! I don't know who you are or where you from! But thanks to you I was saved! Thank You!"

I think the way you're giving me your gratitude is completely abnormal.

Well, if what she is saying is truth, she might be emotionally unstable, I do a nod to her..... by holding hands in front of hips, this is a type of very intimidating 'thank you'. To be frank I never got used to saying 'thank you' or 'sorry' even in the previous life.

That girl looks toward the man who has sunk into the wall about 3 cm (He is twitching a bit so he is not dead!) with hateful gaze and returns her line of sight to me.

"So are you an adventurer?"

"Eh? Um, that, how should I say it....."

The girl looks at me with disgusted eyes.

Though she has thanked me, but she is still staying on her guard.

I see, this might be a good decision. She has just gone through a serious situation so it's natural for her to be vigilant.

But, what should explain to her?

I am not an adventurer as of yet and was thinking to learn what an 'adventurer' is, so ain't got much information on them.

I came here by flying with the help of a magic circle, no, well it's the truth but I doubt she will believe it.

It's hard to make a lie so soon, and even if I say the truth it's highly likely to be regarded as a lie, no words are coming to my mind to make the girl full of vigilance (Is this girl even an 'adventurer'?) nod.

Then, she herself speaks up

".....Is it something you can't say?"

"Not something I can say, or rather, I don't have anything to say"

"You a nomad or something? You got lost in this dungeon? well it's alright."

The girl quickly wears the clothes and armour while talking. And then checks the position of the dagger? like think hanging on her waist.

"I want to know something? What are you gonna do from now on?"

"What? Well, it's getting out of here."

"I see, then let's go together"

"Eh, isn't that alright?"

Now this is unexpected development! Maybe if I stick with this girl, I'll be able to get out of this dungeon? She still hasn't taken down her guard, but speaks in a somewhat calm tone.

"Well, though this is the 1st floor, but it's disheartening to roam around alone. I would love to go with someone else but this pervert is out of question."

"Is that so? Then Great~, I didn't know which way should I go"

"Wha!? Wai, You, didn't even check the route you came from!?"

She is saying as if saying 'unbelievable'.

"Even if you're not an adventurer, but making a map when searching through the dungeon is the basic of basics!? If you don't do it, then you can't get out! Even if the level is low....."

To hell with making a map, I just came here by warping and even before I told her this off, she entered a lecturing mode.

"God, This is the first time I saw someone as optimistic as you? If you didn't meet me, how would you have gone back home?"

If you can do it then do that to mom. No actually I will also help in it.

I seriously after so many years, couldn't get what the hell is she thinking.

Well anyway, I stick with her now. No, I was really sad to roam lonely. I was already thinking about living here till old age without getting out. I am lucky to stick with a person who actually knows the way out here.

After completing her preparations, the girl said 'come on let's go' and I in a panic followed her.

Hey, what? You gonna leave that old man?

"It's alright. I don't have any obligation to save him. And his hand is standing up, so he will not die.....And I don't care even if he died (deadly stare)"

Whoa, you say a lot

Well, what was about to occur to her, then her actions are normal.

"What's your name? You didn't tell me yet?"

Nh? Ah, Self-Intro is still not done. Due to all this rapid development I completely forgot about it.

Or rather, I'm already at my limit to call her 'this girl'.

"My name is Minato. Minato Quadrille"

"Hmm.....Unusual name it is. I'm Elk. Elk Caucus. Nice to meet you. "

This was the meeting between me and the bespectacled girl.....Elk.

Chapter 8 – Sword Fight and Distrust and Enhancement Magic

“Hmm, so that’s why you are at this place.”

“Ah, well yeah”

Elk says ‘You did well surviving’ after hearing my false story.

After accompanying with her, I was able to leave the dungeon-like labyrinth (according to her, the name is ‘Labyrinth of Naga’.)

And when I told her ‘Ah I don’t know any cities or places like that near here’, she showed me an amazed expressions as if she had given up on me. I’m really sorry for that.

But, too bad, thanks to the hobbies I had in my previous life, I now like the disgusted eyes looking at me. They’re my favorite.

After watching at me with those eyes for some time, she said ‘It really can’t be helped’ and guided me to the nearest city. Phew, safe!.

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Along the way I had something that I wanted to confirm so I stopped Elk who was guiding me to the city.

What it is? It's the very simple thing known as : Knowing the 'currency values'.

When I was leaving the house, I stole the money (They are coins) from the vault inside mom's room. In the letter too it was written 'You can take as much money as you want' somewhere, there shouldn't be any problem.

But, I still don't know its value.

I had already learned the information about this world from the books inside mom's study. She had accumulated those books from a lot of eras (She lives long after all) and so I couldn't get a damn clue about the currency value of the current era.

Maybe here too is the difference between currency like that in japan, like the 1 Yen from pre-war times is of 1000 times more value than that of 1 Yen of the current time.

.....And it is obvious that mom has lived a lot of time and must've seen currency values changing and.....no, let's not think so much about it.

So, when I took out all the coins and asked Elk 'Will this much be alright for surviving in a city', she eyes open wide.

"Eh, What? What happened? "

“‘What happened’ is my line! Why the hell are you showing a large amount of money as if natural!? And that so, in the middle of path!!”

Large amount? Is she talking about this bag full of silver coins?

I don't the rate, but it maybe large amount, given the precious metal and a bag full of it.

After hearing the explanation which was more like an investigation enquiry.

It seems to be that 1 silver coin is around 10,000 Japanese Yen. What the Fuck. And 1 gold coin is of 100 silver coins and 1 silver coin is of 100 copper coins.

So in short, after adding up the 10 gold coins and 100 silver coins inside my bag, it's value is above 10 Million Yen!? Awesome!!

This ain't the sum of amount worthy of 'it's alright' or 'it's not less'!? Mom why the hell did you leave this tremendous amount of money!? This much money is not even the half of the what was in the vault.

No, well, she did get her reward from the previous request. Her fortune is around that of the national budget. So this much money is of no concern at all to her.

So, the amount of in this bag is only mere several hundred thousands of

yen. It's like seeing many brown envelopes full of banknotes in front of you. It's natural for Elk to be startled. Yes

The path starting from the dungeon has fewer people passing but it's not zero. So it won't be good if others saw it.

And then,

And then I realize that Elk, who is I think frozen, is thinking about something.

That is okay, but sorry. But if I don't move you, I won't be able to reach the city.

And, looking at her closely, she looks pretty dangerous.

"Eh!? Ah, Wh-What Minato? Ah, Sorry, I was thinking something"

When I poke her shoulders, she gives an overreaction of being startled. Is her heart alright. I'm sorry for that.

"Sorry, Sorry, City, right? Follow me"

And then, Elk starts walking on the path at a fast pace.

.....Well, she might have her own reasons, and it's rude to interfere in other's problems. So I decided to follow her silently.

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After walking for a while, she temporarily left to some place leaving me behind saying 'I'm going to pluck some flowers'.

Now a little knowledge.

'I'm going to pluck some flowers' is phrase primarily used by female mountaineers and which means 'Nature is calling for me'.

By the way, for men it is 'I'm going to pluck some green peas'. Awfully lame!

.....It was after dozens of seconds later, that I realized the strange incident occurring.

7 people, no 8 people, eh. 1 is standing too far away.

I am already surrounded by them. They had dispersed their presence and are already scattered.....were they thinking of ambush from before?

But, though they are careful, it doesn't appear that they have any

intention to keep on hiding and wait for the right moment. They surround me and after coming a little closer to me, they show their faces.

There appearance is, well in one word 'Bandits'. They mostly look the same as the ones during the test given by mom. Their face also looks evil.

So they capture the weak looking adventurers coming and going from/to the 'Labyrinth of Naga', eh?

Well, not like I give a shit.

"Ah, you don't have say anything? I know what you are going to say already"

"Hey, Lil bro, ain't ya too much calm in this situation"

"Do you know the position you're in, huuh?"

I do know? To some extent, though

And perhaps they are gonna say any one of these: 'Take out your money' 'Leave everything you have' or 'Come with us'.

"Even so, it's more than what I expected?"

"Yeah, surely. His appearance is good and black hair is rare.....Holy God, his eyes are also black. This lad can be sold at high price."

"He is also equipped with good equipment. Is he from some noble family?"

Aw Geez, so it was the third phrase.

If Elk returns at this time, she might also be targeted by them. It's good to finish the job before she comes back.

The moment I thought that, I felt a prickling sensation near the nape of my neck.

Immediately after, something fell near my foot, thinking what it might be, I crouch and pick it up just to find a cone shaped.....dart.

After realizing that I have got hit by this dart, one of the bandits approaches me nonchalantly while showing a 'Gehehe' vulgar smile.

I don't know what's the reason for that, but it's convenient for me.

"1 person at a time"

"Huh? What the fuck you say—GuBooohh!?"

Just as I stand up, I do a backhand chop on the person approaching me and he goes down.

And there was one more person behind him. So I kicked in his stomach.

He flies to the other side of the brushwood and didn't come back. Yeah, he is definitely unconscious.

Seeing that, the countenance of the six bandits surrounding me changes.

They are spouting some crap like, 'Why ain't it working!?' and 'It should paralyze him!?!'. Anyhow, I can understand that they are in a state of panic.

Well, I know for what reason it is.

Lick

I lick the dart which was fired at me but didn't stick in my skin.

Ah, as expected. The dart was covered with a lot of.....paralysis poison.

But, too bad.

Even if this dart did stick in my skin the poison of this level won't work on me.

And, one person comes near me thinking that now I have licked the poison, it should work. I punch him in the gut and he faints.

By this time, finally the thieves appear to be in a state of severe panic.

It's too late for them, though.

Just like I said before, I will deal with you guys before Elk returns.

.....But she won't feel good upon seeing corpses lying after she comes back. Let's keep them alive to run away.

".....Just 5 seconds, huh"

It will be troublesome, but I would've let them go if they tried to run away. And as to not accept my grateful offer 5 bandits attack me.

In the end, just like I declared, finished them all in 5 seconds.

I punch the one coming at me from the front like an idiot. 1 person down.

One person attacks at me from behind while swinging his sword. Before he comes near me I kick him in the crotch. 2 people down.

And swing the kick towards the other person coming at me from the side. 3 people down.

1 of the last 2 people, aims at the bottom of my neck with the dart.

Does he have no thinking capability.

Ah, this is a good time to show off. So I catch the dart and throw it at him.

It hits in the middle of his forehead. 4 people down.

Really, a dart won't stick in my skin and even if it sticks a poison of this level won't work on me even if they stick it 1000 times.

There is a reason for this,

The story is related to the origin of my different type of body enhancement magic.

I developed it during the training period with the cooperation of mom. And it's cool and awesome name is 'Elemental Blood'

Mom was shocked beyond limits and screamed 'Just what the hell are you trying to make!!' at that time. This can be said as one of the secret magic from my collection of original magic.

Normal enhancement magic are not complex as it's only filling up your body parts with magic to increase physical strength or increasing reaction time.

If one has talent in magic, they can use it very soon and easily. A popular type of magic.

But this magic, just enhances physical strength and endurance strength. It cannot change the nature or hardness of body.

In simple words, enhancement magic will reduce the damage from blunt or shock attacks but it won't protect the body at all if cut by blade or swords.

Naturally, if one trains his body and magic to the utmost limit, it is possible to gain a body that can bear the damage by blade or swords, but skin is skin and it will remain soft.

For the same reason, even if magic increases the physical strength, it can't repel poison or acid like things.

If one tries to stop them with 'Enhancement Magic', they have to control the flow of magic in their body with tremendous concentration for changing the function of their body.

In the history of this world. Many renowned magicians and researchers have tried to research about this magic and failed. And it is said, that the accurate control on magic is impossible by the people of this world.

But I have succeeded in performing it, with the help of the knowledge of human structure from my previous life.

In the first place, the reason the humans can't control the magic accurately in all the parts of body is because they don't know the structure or how human body works.

Even if there are people who can enhance like 'Let's enhance the arm' but there is no human who can enhance like 'Let's enhance each and every hair that is growing on my arms.'

But even if they don't know the structure of human body, it's possible for them to control the magic flow and let it flow equally in the insides of their bodies.

When we use the 'blood vessels' spread throughout our body. The method I used.

We humans let the nourishment flow throughout our body via blood flowing inside the vessels. Due to that, every hair and every cell is getting nourishment.

So I thought 'Then it's better to use magic like that'.

I mixed the magic in very small particles (called them as 'Demon Particles' during research) inside my blood and am letting magic flow along with blood inside my body.

Those 'Magic Particles' are flowing through my entire body and are absorbed by each and every cell just like nourishment. And now all cells are filled with magic.

Thanks to that, my body which has got on the level of controlling magic to the extreme, won't just end up with the increase in power.

My vision, hearing and smelling and other senses that are difficult to enhance have enhanced.

And body has gotten solid at cellular levels, so a normal knife can't be stabbed in me.

Most of the poisons and acids also won't work on me. The me right now can drink 100 times more poison than that of a normal person and still remain fine. Furthermore, it won't even feel ticklish if I bath with sulfuric acid too.

Of course, if the poison dosage or attack power is above the level I can bear, it will hurt like hell, but the attacks and poison of these bandits,

SFX: Gakin

"What!?"

Won't give me a single scratch even if I catch them with my hands (of course, bare hands).

"M-Monste-GubOhh!!!?"

"Who is the monster,huh. You're pretty rude, ain't ya!?"

I catch the saber and push it towards the forehead of last person with force.

Blood starts flowing from his forehead due to the strong blow from the back of saber. He opens and closes his mouths as if to say something and falls down.

'Kay, 5 seconds over. I completed it before Elk came back.....at that moment,

"M-Minato!? Wh-What is....."

"Ah, welcome back Elk, you were pretty fast?"

Elk looks at me from the shade of a tree.

"Eh, um, is this....."

"Ah, It's fine completely fine. I've already finished it. Well, they're alive."

I have already learned how to hold myself back.

After that 'test', we had to go far away from home many times (Always flying in air while being held by mom.) and so I have accumulated experiences by doing bandit extermination of those areas.

It was thought that maybe I don't want to kill another human because I didn't kill even one person.

Well, I won't refute to that. It's all due to the idea ingrained in me from

my previous life that if they are going to be judged by law then there is no reason to kill them.

And it also helped me to understand how to hold myself back when fighting.

Anyhow, I had already completed the fights at a level in which I can kill the opponent by that time.

And during those fights to not kill other person, I also tried to properly use my enhanced body properly. I fought against those whose names are on the wanted list and are wanted alive. (The cases of wanting a person dead or alive are more though)

Let it be fist or kick, it's easy for me to defeat the opponent without killing them now.

When I look at Elk, she is looking down of the bandits with an expression full of fear and anxiety.

.....I know it's a bit late, but this looks more bad than corpses lying down.

In addition, her reactions are just too much, well it's natural after all, the girl went through a bad experience just a while ago.

And I decided to wait for Elk to calm down and restart our journey to city.

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And just before reaching the city 'Volka' in which Elk lives,

"By the way, what are you planning to do from now on."

"Eh, what do you mean?"

"From what I heard before, you don't seem like an adventurer. So are you going to register at guild or search for some other job....."

Whoa Guild! The Adventurers Headquarters! I was waiting for it!

This is that you know? The manager of the organisation which controls adventurers and offers them quests, right!? This world is AWESOME!!

"Nh? So if I don't register I won't become an 'adventurer'?"

"It's not like that, but it's convenient if you do register. It also as an identity card. and will help in getting discounts at shops. Will you register?"

"Eh, Is that Alright! Yay!"

Whoa, Thank you! I have no knowledge about the geography here and neither any common sense, she did save me!

Even I who is delighted like I child know that Elk sighed a lot of times today.

–Right after sighing

".....If it's like this then it will be very efficient....."

Words like that reach my ears.

.....Well, it's alright for now.

Chapter 9 – Adventurer Registration

A few minutes after I had kicked the asses of bandits, I arrived at the nearest city 'Volka' thanks to Elk guiding me.

In one sentence: It has the cliché market scene that is mostly shown in other novels and manga.

There is no signs of any machinery. All the shops, stalls and buildings that give the feeling of a fantasy world are standing on either sides of the road. Yeah, wonderful feeling.

While I was being deeply moved thinking 'This really is like a game world.....'. My stomach started grumbling, after all I walked quite a distance from inside the labyrinth to here and ended up eating lunch together with Elk.

I am being treated by Elk as thanks for saving her. We bought kebabs that are being sold by the stalls and are walking while eating them.

I arrived at the place i was being guided to.

"Hmm, so this is the Guild....."

"That's right. Hey, don't stand there you'll get in others way. Hurry up and come"

"Ah, yeah, understood"

I replied to Elks words and start following behind her.

Still, this is the Guild, eh.....

"It's huge. It surpassed my expectations"

"Well, this is the 'headquarters' for the guilds all over the world. In the first place, this city is larger compared to other cities, so it may be natural."

In front us is the really huge 3-storey building giving the feeling of a government office. The plot area is not like that of a government office but it is on the level of a national congress building.

So this is the headquarter of the Guilds? Is this by any chance a great city?

But I always had the image of the guild being a small building packed with people (arbitrary imagination) and so it's a little unexpected for me. [Askurai: like all guild are so big eh]

It's more like a building made of wood and giving the feeling of a bar, in the centre of it is a table near which some dangerous looking people are drinking alcohol while laughing like "Gahahahaha" and are searching for some beauties in their surroundings.

".....Then won't be a bar rather than calling it a guild. And it's building

is really bad.”

“Eh!? You can read my mind!?”

“You started murmuring while thinking about it.”

Elk completely gives up on me while sighing.

But well, I just can't change this feeling of 'It's normal' that is coming from it. It's completely different from what I have seen in games or read in manga or LN. It seems like a real municipal office or so. [ETN: The normal he is feeling according to what he will feel normal in his own world. It's not the normal with the meaning of lame.]

Ah but there are a lot raw materials of demons scattered here and there? so it gives the feeling of another world. Did someone bring it as some sort of quest?

Well, there's nothing to worry about it, let's go to the counter already.

And look what, an onee-san with a business smile welcomed me wearing the uniform of the receptionist that the ones in municipal offices wear.

She has light brown semi-short hair and her age doesn't seem much different from that of mine or Elk.

The receptionist lady bows her head.

"Welcome to the Adventurer Guild. On what business might you have come here today?"

"Ah, Yes. Erm.....I want to register as an adventurer."

"A new registration, right? Would you also want to register?"

"No, I have already registered so only he needs to register. I am only accompanying him."

"Understood mam. So then, please fill out this document."

While saying that she hands me a single paper, the so called document paper. It's like the registration form.

Hmm, the entry content are.....

Name : Minato Quadrille

Age : 16

Race : Human.....maybe. I want to think I'm human.

I fill out the form with necessary points.

"Ah, excuse me, I have not registered at any inn. How should fill the field of emergency contact address?"

"In that case you can report it back at a later time when you have taken a room at the inn. We won't be able to contact you by then, so it will be better if you hurry and finish it."

"I see. Then this 'remarks' is?"

"That is filled about the techniques an individual uses.....for example, using magic, using familiars et cetera. It is mandatory."

Just like that, I keep on filling the blanks.

Let's leave the techniques at 'Use Magic, Magical skills at beginner level.'

I do have a lot of different magical skills if you ask about them. But it's a hassle to explain.

"HmHm, You can use Magic?"

"Around the level so it can create hindrances."

Elk speaks as such while seeing my entries.

She is looking with a somewhat investigative stare. Well, it's not much

of a problem so I keep on ignoring it. Even if she looks, I haven't written any personal information at all.

I do have a lot of magic inside me, but the things I have and can use that are on human level are "Sympathy Power" and beginner ~ intermediate level magic like making a small flame for illuminating a dark space.

But still, I have confidence in fighting using the 'Enhancement Magic'. Furthermore, it is more simple than using the magic or crap like that.

I keep on writing in the form like that.

Just short information like , 'I'm a beginner' or 'excel at close-combats' but in details.

Why am I writing in details? According to the lady, it is needed for referencing when there are quests in which the teams or parties are needed to be formed.

Ah, it like that, 'recruiting magicians' or 'recruiting vanguards'.

I submit 2 silver coins, which seems to be the registration fee after finishing the form.

The receptionist lady, looks over the form to check any places which need to be filled.

It seems like I passed, and she places a seal on the form.

And for some reason, she asks for 2 strands of my head hair. I pull them out and hand them over.

She puts one hair along with the form in a small bag. And she places the other hair.....on the top of a metal card which she took out of somewhere. [Askurai: so soul/hairbounded?]

Thereupon, the hair disappears as if sucked inside the card.

And then she puts the bag with my hair and registration form in a device which looks like a sort of scanner. She then slashes the card through the small gap present in its side. [ET: Just think of it like the credit card machine. Or amount register machines in department stores]

By any chance, does it read the personal information?

The card which was slashed shines brightly for some seconds. And she hands me the card,

"This is Minato-sama's Guild card.....it will be used as an identity card. Please confirm it."

Whoa, I already got an Identity Card.

Name: Minato Quadrille

Age: 16

Rank: F

.....Et Cetera.

And seeing my eyes (that looked like a kid having his favorite toy in his hands), Elk shows an amazed expression.

It can't be helped I'm a male after all!!

"Well then I will explain some rules of this guild."

And here comes the time for Lady's tutorial. Please teach me well.

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I got the explanation, in simple words it was something like this.

You'll be getting additional services according to your status.

You can accept various requests.....the so called 'Quest' with the help of

Guild.

It is not a problem for the Guild, if adventurers choose to complete investigation work instead of taking quests.

However, if one investigates some dungeon in some savage lands, the guild offers them rewards even if it is not a quest.

It is the obligation of an adventurer to show some results from investigation or complete many quests every month. If this obligation is not fulfilled, they will be disqualified as an adventurer and their adventurer status will be revoked.

This part is somewhat puzzling so I will tell you about it later.

And now about 'Rank'.

Literally, this 'Rank' represents the grade of an adventurer. These 'Ranks' are a total of 10 grades. Starting from F at the lowest it goes up by E, D, C, B, A, AA, AAA, S and SS is the top rank. This crap is pretty detailed.

After completing the quests, the Guild evaluates the achievements or ability of the adventurer and then gives a rank. Sometimes quests for judging the rank of adventurers will be available.

Basically even Quests are divided according to ranks. It depends on my level if I can take it or not.

And lastly if by any chance one were to lose their guild card. It costs 5 silver coins for reissuing it. Really expensive!!

There are other rules too, but according to the lady it will be okay to just know these main ones.

I also got a booklet with all the rules. I will read it later.

"Well then, Minato-sama's registration procedure will end with this..... The contact address is blank, can I ask you to report it as soon as you find a lodging?"

"Ah, Yes, Understood. Erm, will it be okay to just report by speaking?"

I thought there will be something like appendix to fill or something like that.

"Yes, if you explain the situation, it will be okay with any staff member.....if you would like it, you can either search for me or call out for me."

Saying that, the lady gives me her business card.

Name is....."Rin Guiche". I see.

Ah, this name was on the guild card too, saying 'Person In Charge of Registration Procedure'. So this was lady's name.

If I call out her name then I will be able to complete the procedure easily.

And like that, my Adventurer Registration is finished without any difficulties.

Yay, Finally I am also an adventurer.....while puffing my chest with pride, I bow towards Rin-san and leave the guild.

Well then let's see.

Right now, it's afternoon.....

Well, I left home, escaped from a dungeon and straight from there came to the guild (not really) and completed the registration. If you were to say it's natural then yeah it is natural.

Now all that I have to do is searching for a lodging? And a whole day is left, so it ain't like I have to search it right now.....

Other than that.....I don't have any for now.

I even brought my own equipment, so no need to search for any.

Ack, now how will I kill time today.....

For me.....rather than spending time on eating while walking is a bit.....

I'm an adventurer right now, now I can.....

Well what I want to say is simple,

"Hey, Minato?"

"Nh? What, Elk?"

"Do you have any plans fixed after this? You look pretty free to me though....."

"No, I don't have plans. I also have my equipment. So I'm thinking about what to do."

"Is that so? Then....."

Elk, then speaks.

"If it's alright with you, though it might be strange.....will you come together with me to any dungeon."

Ah, Godsend.

Plans: Confirmed.

Chapter 10 – First Dungeon Part 1

After walking 30 minutes from the city, that dungeon was there.

Ah, Dungeon is the area where an ordinary person won't come close to due to demons appearing and other dangers.

Not necessarily, only the places like caves or towers are called as dungeons. Places like deep forests or dark swamps which are isolated and are located in danger area are denominated as 'Dungeons'.

.....Are the words Elk said.

Of course, the places like ravines or grasslands are also included. But the places like that which are not like a building or cave are just called 'Danger Areas'. It suits fairly well, the name that is.

Though, the place Elk decided to go this time, in other words, the place I and Elk first met is the so called "Dungeon" structure-wise.

It's name is "Labyrinth of Naga". It seems like a pretty old dungeon.



It is pretty bright thanks to the torches. I and Elk keep on walking through the corridors made of rock.

Of course, it has some sort of strange intense atmosphere. After all it is a dungeon.

Well, we haven't met any demon till now.

What sort of demons might appear? I'm kinda interested.

Naturally, they will be different from the ones I have always met.

"There won't be any strong monsters coming out. It's still 1st floor..... and the dungeon itself has pretty low rank."

"? Dungeon also have their own rank?"

".....You really don't know anything. Just where did you live and how were you raised?"

I was raised in a western-style house within a forest while defeating demons everyday and living with mom.

.....If I say something like that, most probably an answer like "What?" will only come back, for now let's deceive her.

"Well it wasn't a good environment....."

From the view of a normal person with common sense it definitely is.

"!! I-I see.....Sorry, for asking something strange....."

Elk shows an expression as if saying 'Oh my!'.

Shit, she took it the wrong way?

And then Elk, starts explaining to me politely

"It isn't that complex. You do know that monsters and races have their own rank, right?"

"....."

".....I'll continue then."

Elk this time ignored my unusual silence.

Sorry, for me being unknown to things.

"The Guild decides upon the rank of dungeon based upon the the monsters that appear in that dungeon. The race of monsters and their rank and the resources or treasures one can get from the dungeon.....as for historic ruins, the difficulty of traps is also taken into consideration."

"Guild does? How does it get that information? Do they dispatch some sort of research team?"

"Yes, when new dungeons or danger areas are discovered, the guild puts out a quest for investigating them. Naturally, many voluntarily enter for gaining rewards from investigating and so the information reaches to guild."

"Ah, I see"

Surely if they pay attention to only the credibility, the investigation will end quickly. Really clever way to do work. [Can't make much meaningful sentence in English.]

"By the way the rank of this "Labyrinth of Naga"

"It is E"

"Hmm.....really low?"

"Yeah. It pretty low-rank for it to be called a dungeon."

From what I have heard, the 'Rank' given to a dungeon or danger area is made after taking into consideration of the average level or rank of monsters that appear and also whether there are any traps or not.

In other words, the monsters that appear in this 'Labyrinth of Naga' are mostly near Rank E.

There might be some strong monsters that but the weaker monsters is more. Both in numbers and types of races.

"If you don't go deep enough you won't meet strong monsters. In the first place E and F ranked monsters are like stray monsters living in any place. But inside a labyrinth they have longer bodies and so it is difficult to run sometimes. Taking that into consideration this is E."

I got it, I completely got it. So this only for beginners.

Well even so, due to the fact that monster's appear here it is regarded as a danger area from the pov of an ordinary person. I have be on guard always!

Ah, now that I think about it. I have one more thing I'm kinda concerned about.

"Hey Elk, in this labyrinth.....there are wall-paintings of snakes made here and there, right?"

I point at a wall painting of a snake.....it's pretty big.

There is a figure of human made besides it.....on comparing both, the snake is pretty big.

"Eh? Yeah that's right. That's from where the name 'Naga' came from?"

"This snake in the painting, does it appear in here?"

"No, a guy like that has not been discovered as of yet. The people from

the research group of guild think that this snake some sort of god which was worshipped by the people when this labyrinth was being made."

Hmm, So that's what it was?

The name also represents him, as if he is the boss of the main monster of this dungeon.

"If that snake was here, then this dungeon wouldn't be regarded as an beginner's dungeon.....or rather what is boss, that boss word."

"Ah, Yeah, just some delusional word."

Elk's amazed glare falls on me who just showed off the eight-grade syndrome.

[ET: In Romaji it is 'Chuunibyou' for those who don't know the word Eight-Grade Syndrome.]

Oh, something came"

"Eh?"

From the insides of the corridor, the breathing sounds and footsteps of something came.

Elk hasn't noticed it yet, though. Something is coming here.

Some seconds later, Elk also noticed the sounds and figures.....from inside of the dark corridor came out some demons.

"You have good ears?"

"Ah, Yeah, Thanks. What is that?"

"Can't you see that it's a goblin"

They have green and crumpled ugly faces. Greasy Hair. Height is..... around 130 cm?

They are wearing clothes made of hair and holding clubs in their hands, Just like the image of a primitive man.

It doesn't have any horns. It really is the demon which the feeling 'It indeed is a Goblin!'

The other side has also noticed us and shouts out in i don't know whether in high voice or low voice. Are they saying something like 'Who are those people'.

At the same time, Elk shuts her mouth and takes out the dagger hanging on her waist.

"Don't lose your guard. Though it is of low level, but there is no change in the fact that this is dangerous."

"Yeah, that is a given. By the way what is the rank of a goblin."

"It's E. A group of armed civilians can hunt them down or so it is said. But don't rely on these words."

"Why?"

"Just like goblin, the demons in humanoid forms have more or less intelligence inside their brains and can be difficult to defeat based on the weapons they use. There are also those who use the weapons of dead adventurers."

Ah, I see. So the degree of difficulty changes due to the weapon and experience.

According to Elk,

For example, the goblins armed with clubs are mostly under the rank 'E'.

They can reach up to rank 'D' if they according to the weapons they use and other factors too. On the other hand an unarmed goblin is of rank 'F'.

They have short height and are not agile but they have absurd physical strength.

Furthermore, they attack in crowds, so it's natural to fight them by forming a team.

Goblins upon seeing Elk taking out her dagger take their combat stances.

But they only increased their shouting.....It's gotten annoying.

"They're coming.....you don't need weapons?"

"Nh? Ah, you see I....."

Suddenly 1 goblin comes running towards us and that so in a pretty gross way of running.

Elk throws the dagger at once towards the goblin.

It hits the shoulder of goblin beautifully. And he only cries *Gyaagyaaa*. Doesn't look like they can bear pain. Well, it did hit the shoulder.

However, Elk didn't overlook the goblin's wailing while stopping his advance, maybe because of experience.

She quickly approaches the goblin while evading the club swung by goblin due to pain and irritation. And she strikes the head of goblin who is full of gaps.

The goblin's neck is cut, blood starts flowing and the goblin dies down on the spot.

Right after Elk retreated from that place. A magnificent version of 'Hit and Away'.

"When you don't have confidence to defeat a goblin, it's basic to kill it slitting its throat and running away later. Just like how I did."

"I see.....You're pretty strong yourself."

"Well I did train myself for that.....I can do something like this. But don't let down your guard. With this the others are angry and will come at us."

Just like Elk says, the other 2 Goblins start shouting even more. They are obviously angry, Yes.

And now I stand in the way of those goblins.

The First Dungeon Part 2

"Elk, can I take care of the rest 2? It will serve as a little warm up"

"Will you be able to do it alone?and I am saying from before, don't you need a weapon?"

"Yeah, it's fine. I can fight like this."

Saying that, I point my clenched fist towards Elk.

".....What?"

Elk stares at me in puzzlement. Then after some seconds she understands my intention.

".....Bare hand?"

"Bare Hand"

"wai-You serious? It's a demon, you know?"

"Nh, its fine completely fine.....It seems weak when compared to bears and crocodiles."

".....What you saying?"

“Well, just wait and see”

Actions are much better than words.

I ignored Elk who is bewildered and is looking at me with eyes saying ‘What the heck you saying?’ and face towards the goblin. The moment I face them the two goblins start running towards me.

I take several steps forwards and take a combat position to not let any harm reach Elk.

Well then, the warm-up starts.

The moment I hear Elk’s gulping sound the clubs of the two goblins are swung downward aiming at my head and top of shoulder.

Well, I will be fine getting hit by this level of attack, but I’ve got no obligation to get hit.

I grab both clubs with my hands wearing gauntlets.....

SFX : Bekya!!! X2 (CRACK)

.....The moment I tried to catch it, both the clubs are smashed into pieces just as they came in contact with my gauntlets. And that so quite elegantly.

"".....Eh?""

Elk who is standing behind is startled, no, even I'm startled.

Clubs really are soft.

Well they look like normal wooden sticks, so it is natural, I guess?

And my gauntlets (I think it was Joker Metal?), recommended by mom have impressive firmness and tenacity.

And the Goblin-sans' also seem like they are startled, sorry but I'm going to attack now.

I face towards the goblin on my right side and do an uppercut.

Just as his body floats a little in air, I raise my left and drop a high kick on its head.

Blargh, The goblin makes a really gross sound. I felt the sensation of bones breaking too. And so the goblin who has its bones broken flies and strikes the wall in front of me.

Of course, he parted from this world before hitting the wall.

The other one is looking at his broken club with a dumbfounded

expression. I'm sorry but.....

grab I grab his neck and raise him up.

And then, *snap*, a sound and feeling of the neck snapping reaches me.

From the sensation, it's not to the level of bone smashing in pieces but the spinal cord is definitely gone. Most probably he died the moment he felt the sensation of being choked.

I throw his limp body and now Phew, now it's over.

Time required to deal with two of them: 4 seconds.

When I turn back, I find Elk with her mouth opened. Was my fighting style that weird.

She is holding her dagger, was she thinking of helping me when it's gets bad? But she didn't had any chance to come forward.

"It startled me.....I never thought you would actually go against a demon empty handed.....you're pretty strong,eh?"

"Nh? Is that so, Thank you."

The still startled Elk said so while putting down dagger.

".....Did you by any chance defeat those slave dealers empty-handed."

"Yea, pretty much. Ah, by the way what should we do now? Is there a need to take the raw materials?"

I have learned this from mom.

That 'Tearing off' any useful 'Raw Material' of demons like horns, fangs or fur is normal for adventurers.

The recovered 'raw materials' can be sold to Guild or taken to blacksmiths to convert them into equipments or items. They have a lot of uses just like in games.

And also that travelling and fighting while using them is also a great pleasure for adventurers.

"Well it depends on the other party. In the case of Goblins there is nothing we can tear off. Their bones are sturdier than that of humans but there are other demons with much better quality of bones."

But, looks like my knowledge is not needed against Goblins.

During the subjugation quests, it's natural for chipping off the ears of subjugation targets but this time we entered without any such request, so it's alright to not think about it.

In that case, will this corpse be left as it is? is that alright.....Nh?

"Elk"

"Eh, what?"

"They came again. This time.....they're big."

"Eh?"

Just like before, I noticed footsteps before Elk.

This time there are.....6,no, 7,eh?

When I say that, Elk shows an expression of being really terribly startled.

And she frowns while making a meek face.

"? Is that bad?"

"Yeah, 6 are a little too much. Those guys have small bodies and can't do many maneuvers.....then the only thing we should be aware of these guys is 'Numbers'. It's better if we run."

"Ooh, I see, but....."(Elk)

"? What?"(Elk)

".....It seems like they're coming from the other side too."

"Eh!?"

The place I'm standing at, I can perfectly hear the footsteps of goblins coming from both front and rear.

From the front there are footsteps of 7 goblins.

And from the behind are 2 goblins. The ones at back are still at a pretty far distance.

Hmm, by any chance, did they gather here due to the that annoying voices from the goblins from before.

"F-From both sides!?"

I once again ignore Elk who is screaming due to this unexpected situation.

So, what should I do now.

This is a good opportunity to practice my situation assessment power.

The ones coming from back, look like haven't realized our presence yet.

On the other hand, the 7 coming from before are being vigilant towards us. Maybe they have already sensed us, as I can hear their really annoying voices.

Or rather, it's only a matter of time before the ones coming from back hear those shitty voices.

.....And,

I didn't sense it at first and still can't hear perfectly, but looks like the guests from the rear are not only goblins. But they all still far.

In that case, the best-solution right now is,

Alright, I'll go with this.

"Elk, Come here"

"Eh? Wa-, Wha-,Eeeehhh!?"

I don't have much time so I postpone the explain.

First, I will run towards the front with Elk in my arms. Towards the 7 Goblins who have already sensed us.

It won't be good were captured between the two parties, and so it's the

best solution to get done with these ones before the rear ones sense us.....but there are many of them.

“No, wait—Hyaaaaaaa!?”

I put Elk down in a safe place and attack at them alone.

From the way Elk fights.....she can fight but it doesn't seem like she's good in melee attacks. And her fight against goblin too was a hit and away version.

Then, it's better I fight here, right?

From the fight before, I now know it somewhat. Against them.....goblins I won't have a problem.

Let it be 7 of them or 70 of them.

Before, I didn't destroy their bodies because I was afraid if their raw materials were needed.....but now that I know that it's not needed and I don't have time, I'll kill them by breaking each of their bones. Ah but I won't break their bodies.



(POV changes to Elk)

Above expectations.

This is the impression I am getting while watching this man.

From what I am seeing in front of me, it can't be explained with the help of knowledge or common sense. This man is showing very impressive movements which he didn't show before.

Attacking 7 goblins is reckless unless one is going for a surprise attack or has a lot of fighting experience.

Because even though they are of low-level. The 'numbers' become an advantage for them.

I or rather every beginner adventurer will choose the place with few demons and force their way through and in the end escape.

And fighting demons without any weapon is in the first place really wrong.

However, Minato really easily broke that 'Common Sense' of mine.

The demons naturally have sturdier bones and firm muscles. That's why they have more stamina and defensive power.

It's not easy to deal fatal wounds to demons who have sturdier bodies than that of humans with some third-rate swords or spears. Though Goblins are small in height but they too are not an exception from that

common sense.

One needs to aim at their vital points and put their weight to deal any damage.

But he, Minato who is swinging his fists is,

crushing the limbs of those goblins with sturdier bones with just a fist and that so very easily.

Simply put. He is dodging and hitting them. Just that work.

Minato's movements are very polished which even a noob in fighting can understand.

He dodges the clubs with very little movement and drives the fist into them.

And his attack is faster than Goblins attack and is lethal too. It won't be wrong to call it as a lethal counter-attack.

And the situation ends up with Goblins not even getting time for reacting to those fast movements.

The only attack he intentionally dodged was the first attack, he really is scary.

He is killing the goblins with just one punch. It fits the words 'Down in a Single blow'

Even now, his fists wearing black gauntlets hit a goblin.

Compared to just one second before, it's face is obviously dented, his neck is also a little extended (The bones of face are smashed and the bones of neck are dislocated) and right now is flying horizontally.

With just those simple movements, just how much power he is putting inside his fists.

And immediately after, 2 goblins attack at him from behind, but as if he already knew about them, does a roundhouse kick without even looking at them.

The moment the clubs are aligned side by side with both goblins heads.

Minato pulverizes both the clubs and heads of the two goblins. Both of them hit at the wall of the labyrinth. Now just one more left.

His movements are very enchanting. Having said that, they are accompanied with power.

For example.....they are just like the movements an actor demonstrates on stage when acting as a Saviour of Justice.

Before I knew it, all the 7 goblins are annihilated within 10 seconds.....
right now the last goblin is falling down having his face crushed by to
Minato's kick.

And right after that,

Minato picks up 2 clubs and.....throws them to the place I am standing.
And the clubs fly past me.

Due to those actions, I immediately look back.

The 2 goblins Minato sensed before.....stumble down after getting hit
by the clubs thrown by Minato.

.....How did I neglect my rear! Pathetic!

By the time I set up my dagger and was about to jump, Minato reached
the place I was standing at.

In the end, I and Minato took each one.....one of the two had his throat
cut and the other had his skull broken to pieces.

9 armed goblins and attack from both front and rear.

In this situation any beginner will have no choice but to escape, but
Minato who is sighing besides me overturned that situation.

"I-It was a little dangerous.....Thank you Minato. You really saved me."

"You're welcome. But it's still too early to relax."

"Eh!?"

A little later,

A.....single demon appeared from the same direction the 2 goblins appeared from.

It has eight legs and a shell covering it's body.

And also has strong-looking fangs which can easily tear off any animal into pieces.

"I did think the rustling sound was noisy so it is a spider,huh? So things like these also appear here."

Minato takes his combat stance without any signs of being confused.

.....Nh? Just now what did he say? "I did think the rustling sound was noisy"?

"Elk, does it come under those you can tear of the raw materials from or not?"

"Eh? Yeah, the fangs can be taken. Not that, you could actually hear the footsteps of a 'Spider'?"

'Spider' is about average even within the monsters of rank E, but no one can hear it's footsteps.

It walks so silently that even in a place where sound reverberates it's footsteps can't be heard. It's pretty dangerous as it does surprise attacks. And it also has poison.

"Well my ears and eyes are better than most of the people. And my nose too."

"H-Hmm, I see....."

From the way he is speaking, looks like he heard it a lot before.

Now that I think about it, Minato ran towards the place with more goblins first rather than going towards the place with just 2 goblins.

It's common sense to go towards the place with few demons unless one has projectiles.

.....Well, it looks like it won't make much difference to this guy.

Maybe he attacked the place with more goblins because he sensed the spider at that time already?

From his way of talk, it looks like though he did sense it, but he couldn't understand that it is the 'Spider' demon.

So that means that he went to the place with more goblins rather than going to the place with few goblins and one unknown presence besides them.

If that is the case, just how good are your ears, Minato?

While I am feeling amazed.

"If we can get the fangs, is punching the stomach good? I don't want it to puke after getting punched....."

Minato leapt towards the spider by kicking of the ground. He appeared right above the spider in one second and slapped it.

The spider after getting slapped at the back, starts gushing out bodily fluids from the crevices of it's shell and falls down on the spot.

Looks like the impact reached till inside and destroyed it's body from inside. The impact actually pierced through the shell of spider which can snap most of the weapons.

I can't help but be astonished, seeing a skill like that.

What if he took care of goblins in one blow because he didn't want his clothes to get dirty. Maybe he can bring out more power to even break

their whole bodies into pieces.

Right now, I once again realize.

That I may have met with a really terrifying person.....who can surpass my expectations.

And I,

(If he stays with me.....the maybe.....!)

I felt a bit of hope secretly spreading inside my heart even before entering the dungeon.

Huh? Just wait a bit.

From what I know, 'Spider' only appears on second floor and upwards why was it on the first floor? Did it get lost?

"Erm, Elk? How shall I take these fangs."

"Eh? Well you can use knife and like that.....Ah, don't touch it with hands? It has poison on it."

"Ah, I see? Well, I think it will alright....."

"Just what will be alright!?"

.....Well its okay. All is well if it ends well.

Chapter 11 – Raw Materials and Inn and Prospects and Secret Meeting

[ET: Tense is always changing.]

Some time after the attack from Goblins (from both sides). We both decided to continue investigating the 'Labyrinth'.

After that, we met various types of monsters en route.

But they all were different from the ones in the forest or it's surrounding areas. Just what I expect from a Dungeon.

For example,

'Wolf'. It was just like it's name says.

'Lizard'. This one is a big skink lizard. It's over-all length is about 1-2 metre.

'Rabbit'. This one is a wild rabbit about the size of dog. By the way it is edible.

For some reason, these all are demons which don't give the monster like feeling. If you ignore their largeness and body color then they can be found on earth too.

Doesn't something like.....erm, dragon appear here?

When I asked that to Elk, I was punched and yelled at 'You got a death wish? Idiot'

No but everyone wants to see it once right? Fighting it is.....you know.

Anyhow, after defeating those guys, we completed the established practice of 'Tearing Off' in this world which is the same in hunting games too.

The fangs or fur for Wolf, skin for Lizard and like that the useful parts are teared off and then sold within the city.

.....or so Elk was saying.

And after we both grabbed some resources (I can call it that,right?), we both left the dungeon.

It was already Evening outside. Well, ain't that fine?



After that,

When I asked Elk 'Isn't there any good inn?' she replied that the inn she is staying at is good. Her inn is the ideal inn with 'Safety', 'Cheapness' and 'Tasty Food'.

And so, it ended up me heading there.

I thought if it is fine to let one unknown man live in the same inn in which she is living. But then I recalled the incident of the morning.

Even so, when I asked about it indirectly,

"It will be good until you try to do something?"

Fast Reply.

There are also girls like this who are frank or act manly.

Or else, am I being trusted? or am I being underestimated.....

Rather, the talk just went too smoothly!

If I object her words, won't I be thought as a man who can self-constrain himself?

That.....yep, it will definitely be hard to live on afterwards.

No well it's a complete truth that I can't self-constrain myself, but I want to avoid letting a girl I've just met know about that fact.

And the inn has favorable terms so I really don't want her to reject me living there.

And so, I accepted her and let her guide me.

The inn Elk is living in is called 'Bermuda'.

.....I thought 'What if I went in there and can't ever come back out' for a moment.....anyhow, putting off the first impression I got from the name,

I enter the inn thinking that it would be good if it's a comfortable place.

"Welcome! To Bermuda where 'Once you enter you can't leave out!'"

We are welcomed by an excessively energetic girl.

Her age is maybe 2 years lower than mine? She has brown pony tail hair reaching her shoulders. Her face is childish and is fair-skinned. More than anything her smile is really bright for my eyes!

I ignore the welcoming lines which actually are the same as what I thought before entering.

"By the way, I'm Tanya, the self-proclaimed poster girl of this inn! Welcome Customers♪"

Self-proclaimed hell with it. But she really is girl full of spirit, to the

extent that it will irritate most of the people.

I don't hate it, though

"Ah, Yes Thank you. Er, is there any room vacant? I want to live here for some time."

"Yes, with pleasure~!"

[ET: 'with pleasure' is said mostly at bar or love hotels, that's why MC says as such.]

Is this a bar or what.

When I glance at my side, Elk is face palming with a worn-out expression.

"The only flaw of this inn....."

I see, so this girl is always full of spirit.

From what I heard, looks like Tanya-chan who is also the daughter of the owner of this inn helps from being a poster girl to being a waitress in the dining hall.

She is good-looking and has cheerful personality, so she is popular among the customers, but looks like Elk is not good with noisy places.

"Ah? Isn't it Elk-san. Eh, What, you brining a man here, is spring finally going to come for you?"

"It's not that, you don't need to pry to any further."

"Aw, boring. I thought I will be getting the chance to choose the name of the future child."

"Just how many steps forward are you thinking about, idiot! Stop speaking ridiculous jokes in front the person himself! I'm sorry Minato, you don't need to pay attention to this girl at all!"

"Hmm, so he is called Minato? Is it beginning of a love story?"

"I'm telling you it's fricking different!Minato let's change this inn, 'kay? I know other good inns too!"

"Aww, don't say something so lonely, Onee-sama♪"

"Who is the Onee-sama you creep! Geez, it's good that you are popular right now, but if you keep on serving them with this attitude soon enough they will disappear?"

"It fine, It's fine. I only serve and tease Elk-san to this extent."

"What the !!"

Elk, your character is changing.

I'm curious that why Elk became like this, but for now let's ignore it.

But well, if she is always being teased like this, it's natural for her get fed up.

"Incidentally, which is your room, Elk?"

"My room is in the inner part on the second floor."

"Is that so, I see. Then Tanya-chan if you can do it then I want my room to be.....—"

"Understood~, You want your room next to Elk-san's room, right?"

"—On the first floor."

Well, I want to have the floor different at least. It's not like I would do something if it is the same floor.

Tanya-chan made a face saying 'Tsk' but she does her work 'honestly' because she quickly brought out necessary documents.

"Fill the name and number of days you want to stay here. The rest we will write. A-And if possible write the type of girl you prefer here."

I take back what I just said.

And from what I hear, there are not many rooms vacant on the first floor.....the ones that are vacant are big sized rooms and medium-sized rooms.

The medium-sized rooms are about the size of a normal room in a Japanese-lodging. 50 copper coins for 1 night.

The big sized rooms are almost the size of a room in a high-class hotel. 1 silver coin for 1 night.

Well from the currency values I heard from Elk, I have a lot of money with me. I'll go with the medium-sized room, it isn't like I desire a high-class room.

In truth they also have small rooms around the size of 'small rooms' in a business hotel. It's price is also pretty reasonable, 30 coppers for 1 night, by the way Elk is also living in this type of room.

But unfortunately, these rooms on both floors are full and only the other types of rooms are left. Can't be helped.

Incidentally, there is a common bath. The people living in small rooms have to give extra fees but the people living in big-sized and medium-sized rooms don't have to.

I pay the price for a medium-sized room on the first floor for 1 week. In total it is 3 silver coins and 50 copper coins.

I take the key for the room and when I glance at my behind, Elk was getting red due to the jokes by Tanya-chan. It seems like she will throw her anger towards me if I say anything, so ignore for now.

Elk spoke 'Good grief.....!'. Thank you for your hard work.



A little later, Elk asked me to come to her room saying 'I have to talk about something'. So, I lock the room which I just now took and head towards her room.

Though I lock it, it's not like there is anything valuable inside the room.

Anyhow, every adventurer including me and Elk moves here and there with their personal belongings.....or perhaps I should say, equipments. And those equipments mostly are of good quality.

So, there are most people who don't leave their equipments in the inn and keep on wearing it to prevent theft.

And above all I have gotten the 'Hyperspace Backpack' from mom. And if I have this I don't have to worry about my living space.

It has limits, but still it has the capacity as that of a large storage room.

And should I say as expected? because Elk doesn't has much belonging

inside her room. The only things there are things needed for daily life and things needed for adventurer work.

It somehow feels just too low things.....well, it can't be helped even if I think about it.

Elk puts away the bag filled with the raw materials brought from the labyrinth and gives me an eye signal saying 'Sit'. I accept her offer. I sit on a chair while Elk sits on her bed.

"Minato, the raw materials we brought is it alright to sell them at the guild tomorrow?"

"Eh? Ah, Yeah it alright. Is it something you can sell just by bringing it over there?"

"More or less. Though it takes time for investigating the origin of the raw materials, but these are of low-level so it will be over in some minutes. And, erm....."

"?"

"Erm, the distribution of profits from selling it....."

Yeah, the money comes after selling the raw materials.

Well it will be good with 50-50, it is the basic, right?

Elk was also saying that, but right now her words seem evasive.

And keeps on murmuring to herself.

".....No, it will be good if I speak it out straightforwardly."

? What does that mean?

Elk takes a deep breath while I'm trying to find the meaning of her words and—

"You see, Minato. I have some troubles going on and so I need money. And that's why.....can you increase my share even if a little bit?"

—sincerely requests.

Ah, I see, this really is something that is hard to say.

"Yeah, it's fine with me."

"That's right, you won't increase.....EH!? i-Is that fine!?"

For what reason are you freaking out?

I thought she will happily accept my words, but what came back was an expression full of surprise.

"N-No, but can you that easily....."

"After all, Elk has taught me many things and you see, I don't have any need for money right now."

"B-But is it fine? You were the one who killed most demons?"

That much is nothing for me.

Surely, I did kill the most of the demons, but rather, I requested her to let me fight them.

After all, all the monsters(The animal types were more though) we met were full of spirit and came at us in large crowds.

And so, I fought against them to my heart's extent. There is no need to worry about it.

Argh, it was a let down.

I speak to Elk who doesn't seem like she is digesting my words at all.

"Elk, you can take the whole profit for yourself?"

"No, T-That, I can't do it!?"

Why? You need money, right?

She doesn't seem like she will tell me the reason for it, so I won't ask about it.

Just like I said before, it's not like I have a need of money right now, so it's completely fine with me even if Elk takes all the money.

To put it bluntly, I can earn that much every time. Only the prey is needed for it.

"You really gonna give me all that? Aren't you being too nice?"

"I don't know if I'm being to nice, well, there is no reason to reject your request. Just think that I'm doing it on a whim."

"I-I see, Thank You.....It's difficult for me to say.....I already have a feeling of guilt from before (depress)....."

She shows a somewhat depressed face, but a little after shows a happy expression.

Taking all the money does feel awkward.

Anyhow, we talked for a little while and then made our way to eat meal together.

In this dining hall, only the breakfast is free. Well for the guests there are discounts.

And I have a lot of money in my purse, so I ate a lot of food.

When I asked that why the dinner isn't made in sets, though breakfast is. The reply that came was that adventurers in general like to eat and drink as much as they want in night and so the dinner in sets is not made.

And after eating, I bid farewell to Elk and return to my room.

Well anyhow my first day as an adventurer went smoothly. I lie on the bed which is the first bed I lay down on after leaving the home.

Well then,

For the first time I fought against demons different from the ones in the forest, honestly speaking.....

No, let's leave it.

It's not good to think about something that will lead to carelessness.

Even Elk said that only 'weak' demons appear in that labyrinth. There will be many chances to fight against strong monsters from now on.

Though I don't know if Elk will be there with me at that time.

Well I can't do anything by thinking. Let's sleep.

I turn off the lights.

I'm one of those people who can't sleep in a complete dark room. And so, I set the candle in the candle-stand.

And when I bring my palm near there.

The candle catches up the fire in an instant.

".....I didn't even had chance to use 'this' today."

I mutter words to myself.

Today I didn't use this and only took care of demons with normal 'Taijutsu', but.....chances will come to use 'this' which I used always in the forest.

I want to fight against those guys before my instincts become blunt. It might be imprudent, but I'm itching to use my skills.

I close the curtains and close my eyes.

Ah, by the way, the share distribution ended up with being 8:2 of Elk and mine.

It feels like not much changed.



In late night,

Elk left the 'Bermuda' inn and entered the small dark alley behind the inn.

In general, the so-called back alleys are dangerous places for a woman in night. The usual Elk always stays on her guard and doesn't leave the inn at night-time.

But, today she went inside the back alley.

And the one she is meeting is there.

She entered the back alley and after turning on some corners reaches a place with some light.

The men gathered there all had dangerous and grim expression. They all turn their line of sight towards Elk who just came in.

But, Elk knowing that they will not attack, starts walking while pretending to be calm.

One of the men from that suspicious group of men steps forwards towards Elk.

"You know what to you have to say, Elk?"

".....You guys got problem with the incident in morning?"

"Of course. Just what were you thinking by bringing that monster..... though no one is dead but everyone is injured and now can't move."

"I can't do anything about that.Even I didn't knew that he would be so strong.....And furthermore, you guys were the ones who made this plan, it would've been fine if you used your minds?"

"What did you say bitch....."

"Stop it, nothing good will happen if you argue here..... And I now understand that it's not only your responsibility this time. But casualties did appear and we all are right now angry. So stop from speaking in a provocative tone. For the sake of both of us."

Another man comes in and calms down the man who got worked up due to the argument.

He speaks in a soothing tone. He warns everyone and all shut their mouth.

When he sees that both parties have calmed down. He then faces

towards Elk.

"So what are you going to do? I will regard this time as bad luck but what about your older problems that are yet to be solved?"

"You gotten friendlier with that man, right? He has some good equipments, snatch a single weapon from him!"

"It's impossible. At a glance he does seem like someone who isn't thinking about anything, but he has ridiculous physical strength. If I make a blunder while doing that, I might be killed."

"That is troublesome. But what are you gonna do, go for some other adventurer?"

".....I reject. I really don't want to involve unrelated people in this."

"You say that after doing it, huh, did you go blind by the money he has? I won't let you say that it's wrong?"

".....!"

".....Let's say you don't do that. Then how are you going to make money? You won't make it with proper means, even you should know it, right?"

".....I might be able to make it from those proper means. If I can get him to fight for me....."

"Hmm, I see. In that case, well, good luck. I'm telling you once again that I won't increase the deadline."

He steps near Elk and then whispers in her ears.

"You know what happens.....if you don't make it?"

Saying that the man turns back and leaves the place.

The other men follow after him.

There are those who are cursing Elk, some are clicking their tongues and those who don't have any intention to both are looking at her with lustful eyes,

After they all disappear in the darkness after following the man at front,

Elk clenches her fist very tightly that blood starts flowing from it.

Chapter 12 – Abnormal Situation Part 1

Dawn of the next morning.

I wake up at 6 o'clock, all due to the habit from childhood.

When I was in the western-style house, I woke up early in the morning and after doing the morning training, I had my breakfast.

I can go outside the city for morning practice, but I'm not confident whether I will be able to return back.....

It's alright, from now on the morning practice will be when I have time.

My living environment has changed, so I can't keep the daily life routine as same.

I should adapt myself here.

And I'm going to Guild with Elk today to sell the raw materials. I will at that time leave the city and if I didn't come back, then I'm sorry.

But there is not much change in my free time, so I decide to do some normal warm-up.

While remembering the lyrics of that song that played on the radio in the morning at 6 o'clock.

.....No good. I forgot it!

It's natural. The last time I head it was when i was working at a part-time job in the neighbourhood association during my second year of junior high.....it's already 20 years.



I somehow kill 1 hour and at 7 am which is also the breakfast time, I head into the dining hall and an unexpected situation was waiting for me.

"Eh, Elk left already?"

"Yea, early in the morning. Ah, she said me to hand over a letter to you."

When I enter the dining hall, Tanya-chan came running to me and informed about the situation.

I take the letter. Er, so what is written here.....what?

" 'You see, today I promised some of my adventurer friends to go to a dungeon. They came early in morning and now it's too late to reject them.' and as such is written in letter and after writing the letter she also said that 'it feels awkward to wake up the sleeping Minato-san.'"

"Yeah, I see. Thank you Tanya-chan for explaining it to me in simple

language.”

But, now I don’t even need to read the letter.

Still let’s read it,

Looks like she had plans to go to a dungeon with those ‘adventurer friends’ before noon.

But one of those friends said something like ‘I found a great information. So let’s go to the dungeon right now’, and in a hurry she left with them.

That’s why, she wants me to do the selling of raw materials today or postpone it till tomorrow.

Just how early did she wake up.

And Tanya-chan too who heard that message and also took the letter.

“Fufufu, though I look like this, I’m pretty strong in morning. And it’s natural to go to market for buying ingredients at 4 o’clock. That is one of the secrets for the good quality of the food in this inn.”

I see, so for getting the fresh and good quality ingredients, she does a lot of work. She is young but she is really dependable.

I thought she only had the character of girl full of spirit, but now my opinion about her improved.

While being impressed, I eat the breakfast compiled of Bread and Soup and Bacon and eggs.

It's not much but it's good.

"Well that aside. Minato-san? Did you have any fun last night?"

"Wh, hey, a girl shouldn't say something like that."

Tanya-chan asks such a thing with a grin on her face.

No, I didn't had any fun.

So this is her true character after all.

Unfortunate for you, I didn't get out of room after I went in.

"Hmm~, People like Minato-san are rare nowadays who are serious and mostly uninterested in things."

"Is that so? I think it's normal"

"It's not like that. Generally the male adventurers are violent and egoistic. Sometimes, they even do sexual harassment while I'm working.

Well, now I'm used to it."

Now that I think about it, there are many people like them as adventurers even in Web Novels I have read.

In fact, it might be natural for them to do what they want to in the night as they spend their whole day in dungeons fighting the demons. Though, I have doubts whether the sexual harassment is also needed.

"In worst cases, there are also people who say 'I'll pay you, give me some nighttime service'. Geez, If they want to have fun with women, it's good if they go to the red-light district. Ah, would Minato-san want me to give you pleasure at night?"

"Haha, no-no, you're charming and beautiful, but that is just too much."

I do uphold my morals. And her outward appearance also is a major factor.

She is good-looking and is in her growth period.....but spreading my son in front of a girl who looks like middle school student is a little.....

Anyhow, so this place has a 'Red-light district' here.....

I did had hunch that it might be here.

".....(*grin*)"

".....What!"

"Um, Minato-san, have you been told that you're too easy to read."

".....Well many people I've met have told me."

Including the previous life.

I got scared seeing Tanya-chan's face which looked like a child who just got an interesting toy. But if I pay heed to it and start explaining it, it won't be like putting oil in fire but it will be like putting gasoline in fire and so I won't pay any heed to it.

"Fufufu, well Minato-san is also a man? Ah, but Minato-san is sometimes too much obedient, that's why don't get involved with nasty people when you go there? recently there also rumours about kidnapping."

"Hmm..., Is that so? What sort of rumour is it?"

"This is just what I've heard? They pretend to faint in the street and act like as if the person who saved them had met them due to a coincidence. Then they lead their saviour to the trap where the other kidnappers are waiting. They then take all the valuables and in the end also sell off the person. Really Scary~"

.....Hmm, now this truly is scary.

I eat the breakfast while talking with her and slowly the dining hall starts to get crowded. Looks like other adventurers woke up.

And then Tanya-chan returns to work. Talking time finished.

Well then, shall I sell the raw materials by myself. It isn't much amount that I can't carry.

However, isn't Elk trusting me just too much. I met her yesterday only. Did she never thought that I will run off with the money I will get from the selling of raw materials.

.....Well not like I will do it.

Well then, I will sell the raw materials after I finish eating.

☆☆☆

(POV Changes to Elk)

When I woke up in the morning, all of a sudden an acquaintance adventurer came and invited me saying 'I found a great information. So let's go to the dungeon right now'.

And so, I left early in the morning without eating any breakfast.

I don't know about the credibility of the information but it is about

some sort of 'Treasure'.

The ones who find the 'treasure room' and 'treasure' first, it belongs to them. Time is essential. It's no wonder everyone is in a hurry for finding them.

Even I at this moment am feeling restless.

In truth, I wanted to invite Minato too after seeing his battle prowess yesterday, but it somehow felt awkward to wake him up at 5 o'clock in morning. And I didn't even have a promise to go with him.

I was worried whether I should go with them for searching the treasure room or go with Minato.

It's uncertain whether there is a treasure room, but if the information is right, then I get a jackpot. Even if we all split it equally, I will still be able to get quite an amount of money.

If I go with Minato, I'll be able to certainly get considerable amount of demons raw materials. I won't be able to gain that much amount of war spoils even if I go with other adventurers. But that profit can never catch up with the profit I'll gain if I find a treasure room.

And in the end, I chose the former option.

It's also because of the reason that I couldn't ask him yesterday to come with me to the labyrinth today. If I had asked him, then maybe my choice would've been different.

Anyhow, I entrusted the letter to Tanya and decided to leave alone.

She made a simple bentou and handed it to me, frankly it saved me. If she always showed the good part of her then it will save me a lot.

And right now, I'm in front of the entrance to 'Labyrinth of Naga'

The people coming with me are acquaintances which I can trust.

Well, they have bad behaviour, anyhow, they aren't like the pervert from yesterday.

Well we don't have that much good friendship, so it's not like they will put their lives at risk for protecting me.

By the way, my rank as an adventurer is E.

Other members are also E except for one who is rank D.

It depends on a person's ability, but generally Rank E means promotion from being a beginner and rank C means that, that person is a good adventurer. At the same time, it is said that rank C is the limit for a person with no talents.

It isn't just based on strength as there are many strong people within the same rank so the rank promotion is based on taking the researching skills and knowledge into consideration.

In truth, I have mostly the abilities and knowledge not related to fight, though I learnt it from mom. In terms of fighting I'm quite low.

.....Just what might be the level of fighting ability of Minato.

He has just registered at Guild, so his rank is still 'F'. From what I saw yesterday, he is quite, no, really powerful.

After all, there isn't any person who will fight against demons bare-handed. Even if there are, it is limited to those races with a lot of physical power like dwarf.

That's why when yesterday he said 'I will fight empty-handed', I thought it was impossible.....but a little later he really did defeat the demons bare-handed. Seeing that I was considerably shocked.

I did think he is strong from the time he defeated the bandits, but it was outside my expectations that he is that much strong.

Though Minato is not like a flower's stem but just from where that power comes from inside that slender body.

While I am thinking like that,

"Now that I think about it, Elk you're recently desperate to raise money?"

The swordsman (Rank D. He is 23 years old and the oldest.) I am accompanying, asks me.

".....Not really, just some circumstances."

"Hmm, Well, I'm sorry but we can't help with you with your circumstances."

"I am not even expecting that you will ever help."

"You're cold. Well if you want money that much, shall I help you?"

And so the girl who is a thief (It's not like she does stealing or so. It's just that she is skilled in exploring dungeons and search treasure) asks me.

She earns money as an adventurer and as a prostitute. With just that much, she is the most rich person within our group.

In reality only she is using weapons and equipments better than mine and the other three. Doing those works does give a lot of money.

In truth, even I have been invited to work as a prostitute. She said she would introduce me to the brothel she is working at. Though I always reject her offer.

But this time,

".....I will think about it."

"Eh? Elk, you really? Do you have a fever?"

"What, you surprised that I didn't reject the offer this time?"

"When you really want to become a prostitute, do tell me? I will contribute in the sales."

"What, weren't you going to help me?"

"This and that are different! Just like how a man is different below from above!"

Other guys who heard our talk start talking.

Do they want to embrace me that much? Someone as plain like me?

"You even accepting the offer, you're that desperate? By any chance, you got stuck in a debt cycle?"

"Impossible, that won't happen! It's Elk after all"

"Yeah, that can't be to her who doesn't spend even a little and always manages her budget more sincerely than other people."

".....Well she must have a lot going on. A lot. Though it all might be

personal.”

Their words. Stab my heart.

Right now I’m standing at the point where if I let the feelings take control over me, I would get depressed really easily.

And as a result, I can’t say anything to them.....Even yesterday, I got involved with something that I can’t tell other people.

In the end, it only ended up as a plan failure.....I can’t believe that I even went that low just to get money. Really disgusting.

A little later, after experiencing that guy’s innocent kindness, I now think that doing something like that wasn’t needed.

And I thought.

That I won’t do something like that ever again.

Anyhow, there is no time to talk about useless things.

I need to, find that treasure room or what, and along the way collect the raw materials of demons and earn a lot!

.....So that I don’t have to something like that ever again.

Chapter 12 Part 2

(POV changes to Minato)

I go to the guild and submit my guild card along with the raw materials I hunted yesterday.

Such as fangs and fur of Wolf, skin of Lizard and meat of Rabbit.

Seems like the materials were in a good state, so I got 2 silver coins and 40 copper coins in return. This is quite high?

Well, this job is accompanied with danger and adventurer do this work on a daily basis. If I take the lodging expenses in consideration, this much is reasonable.

The person at the desk was Riin-san whom I met yesterday. I was praised by her, because I'm a rookie who just registered yesterday and yet I brought quite an amount of raw materials.

I still told her 'I did all this along with Elk'. I don't want to monopolize all the glory for completing this feat, in the first place. We both were supposed to come here together for selling the materials.

Well then, now that my business here is done,

Shall I also go to the 'Labyrinth' after doing some shopping? Yesterday I returned to the inn pretty fast, but I've heard that in this city there are many shops that are selling items which help with the investigation work.

Ah, before that,

"Riin-san is it true that I can buy the map for the 'Labyrinth' here?"

Elk was saying it yesterday that in the guild, the map for neighboring dungeons or danger areas are being sold.

Most adventurers that are not familiar with dungeon buy the map and move according to it.

I will need it for when I enter the 'Labyrinth' and so I decided to buy it.

I want to become familiar with it.

It's painful that mom never told me how to read a map.

After all, inside that forest, thanks to the 'Coffin' that mom brought with her, the demons around the house were particularly strong. And so, if I ventured too far from home, I just needed to go to the place with stronger demons to find my way back home.

If that didn't work, then I followed the food's smell that while riding the winds. And somehow, in the end I was always able to return home.

"Yes, it can be bought? Just, it isn't sold here but the opposite reception window."

"Understood. Ah, do you also sell the map of city? I came here just yesterday and so I'm scared that what if I get lost....."

"Yes we sell it too. It is updated on periodic intervals. Caution is required because there won't any information of any shop that is made or closed recently."

I see,

Well it will be good enough if I know the location of 'Bermuda' on it.

I went the reception window as instructed by Riin-san and bought the 2 maps.

Well then, now I'll do some shopping and head towards the 'Labyrinth'. I also need to learn, how to read a map by myself.

Well for the part of going to the labyrinth, I don't think I'll get lost after all I just need to walk straight on the stone paved highway stretching from the main gate of the city.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Elk)

.....It's strange.

That was my impression after roaming inside the labyrinth for 1 hour.

"Shit! Once again. huh!"

SFX: Zasshu (Slash)

One comrade steps forward and slays the goblin that attacked us.

While swinging the blade, he takes down 1 more goblin.

The ones covering him up are me and the thief girl. We intercept the other goblins or demons.....wolf etc that are attacking from rear.

And supporting us is the magician friend who excels in long-distance attacks. Along with his help we finish all the demons that attack at us.

.....We have repeated the same pattern for 1 hour and some minutes.

"Don't you think.....there are more demons?"

"You think that too?"

From the time we entered and till we reached here, for some reason we encountered just too many monsters.

We are cautiously investigating small rooms and passages with dead ends frequently. When the investigation ends or sometimes didn't end, the demons have attacked us many times.

And somehow, it seems like they are attacking us in anger and are releasing just too much bloodlust. Furthermore, they are attacking in larger numbers than usual. It's kind of ghastly?

And from the time we came down to the underground floor 2 from floor 1, it seems like they have gotten even more in numbers.

I have entered this dungeon a lot of times and have experienced many things, but this is a first for me too.

Usually these guys have either good mood or bad mood but today they are all and only angry.

.....What is it? Somehow, I'm having a really bad premonition.

"Hey, shouldn't we go back already.....?"

And suddenly the swordsman friend shakes off the blood sticking on the sword and speaks as if saying 'What the hell you're saying.'

"Huh? We have just entered, we haven't found any trace of treasure or anything yet. You got cold feet?"

"That's right. Doesn't this happen sometimes if you're an adventurer? You don't need to worry just because some demons are angry."

"No, but....."

"I'm also curious about it. It's not on the level of a little angry but they're considerably angry." (Elk)

"Whoa! even Elk you saying that. Aren't you the one who needs the money the most?"

"No, well, that is true, but....."

I certainly said so, but I am feeling a really nasty chill down my spine.

This type of thing is a first for me, truly.

I'm still a not-so-strong newbie and so I have made many plans for securing my safety. Thanks to that, I can somehow intuitively sense any danger.

"Don't worry about it. I have ventured here a lot more than you guys, this sort of thing happens sometimes? If you get the timing of them attacking, then there is no problem at all"

"True. And if it gets bad then just run. This is only the second floor. No matter what appears here, we four can easily defeat them."

.....It'll be good if that's the case.

My bad premonitions are mostly right.

This bad feeling just doesn't go off, even with you puffing your chest.

...I think it'll be better if I prepare to run at anytime whenever anything bad occurs.

While I was worrying about that,

The footsteps of something heading towards us reach our ears from the dark area in front of us.

We 4 by reflex speak 'Again, huh' as if bored with it and set up their weapons while waiting for the something.....most probably a monster to come in front of us.

For some reason there are many footsteps, it's still the second floor so there won't be any strong monsters here. At most there only goblins or lizards.

We are 4 people and one is a magician. If we coordinate properly, we will be able to fight.

.....Even so,

It strange that I'm feeling lonely just because that guy is not with me today.

While I am thinking that, the thing that appeared in front of our eyes was.....

".....Eh!?"

A monster we never expected to meet.

It is a monkey like monster with humanoid form and has ochre colored body hair growing all over it.

They have bigger bodies than that of goblin and have sharp claws and teeth. They are the.....

Wha-, M-Mad Monkeys!?"

"Just why are these guys on this floor!?"

KiiKii Their high-pitched voice resounds with ear-splitting loudness.

Having our expectations overturned in a split second the party falls into panic.

That's natural. These 'Mad Monkeys' don't appear on early floors ever.

They are the monsters that appear now and then on 4th and 5th floor. Why are they on the second floor then!? And in a crowd, no less!?

Their rank as per guild is D. The difficulty is worlds apart from goblins.

We guys are in a party, that's why it would've been fine with 1 or 2 of them. But no matter how you look at it, they are coming here in a really large damned crowd!

We can't win by fighting them. At this rate, we will be bitten to death.

We 4 four after confirming this fact, start running at full speed.

☆☆☆

I ran and ran and after turning at some corners, I was finally able to shake off the monkeys.

I got separated from others while running. Right now, I can't do anything other than believing that they are fine.

But more than that.....

There is a more serious problem here.

"Ha.....Ha.....Just why are these guys here.....?"

The Mad Monkey's who should appear on the 4th floor and above are on the second floor. It's an abnormal situation.

I start walking towards the exit of 'Labyrinth' because I don't want to stay in this labyrinth for long. I remember the way back after all.

.....But, in one of the corridor that I have to cross to reach the exit, those guys are camping there.

And from the voices I can hear, there seem to be more of them than the crowd from before.

Fortunately, I am still not found by them. And so I am hiding in the shadows and waiting for them to leave. Though, I highly doubt the possibility of that happening.

Having a crowd of rank D Mad Monkeys is as same as seeing a nightmare.

But, no matter what I say the situation won't overturn. I can't do anything but wait for them to go somewhere.

The moment I was thinking that,

The voices of Mad Monkeys changed from 'KiiKii' to 'GiiGii' as if threatening something. It seems like it's gotten a lot annoying from before.

I thought for a second that I have been discovered, but looks like it's something different.

The owner of the voices, monkeys, started running towards some other place while raising their voices.

Looks like they have found a new prey.

It seemed like they are going to kill that demon -maybe an adventurer- and were emitting bloodlust.

But even if that prey is 'Someone' rather than 'Something' I can't do anything to help them.

Fighting that many Mad Monkeys is only reckless unless one is really confident in their fighting ability.

Even if I go out it won't be of any help. It's like pouring a handful of water in a large fire. I can do anything after all, I'm doubtful that I will win against even one of them.

The only thing I can do, is to pray that, that pitiful prey 'Someone' or 'Something' will be able to win or run -If possible, the prey should run away from my place-against/from them.

The moment I try to bear with the regret and powerless of can't be able to do anything, while gritting my teeth.

SFX: Dokan!! (Boooooom!!! Bdooom!! BToooom!!)

"!?"

Suddenly one Mad Monkey came flying from the other side of the corridor.

I instinctively take defensive stance, but then realize that this place is still not discovered by them.

I carefully and timidly peek from the corner of the corridor to see the situation.

At that time, I realized some misunderstandings along with astonishment.

Misunderstanding #1: That Mad Monkey 'Came flying' but at the same time it didn't 'Came flying'. To be precise, it 'It was punched and blown till here.

Misunderstanding #2: That Mad Monkey has already parted from this world, so I won't be attacked.

While I realize the two things,

Suddenly it becomes more noisier than before on the other side of the corridor.

There is only.....strange noisiness.

It doesn't feel like a fight between demons.

There is sound of sparks.

There is sound of flame as if something is burning.

And there are also sounds of something breaking and sound of wind blowing.

Somehow, it feels like the voices of Mad Monkeys is changing from angry voice to scream.....?

Just as I thought, that what if an adventurer that uses magic is fighting the Mad Monkeys.

The voices of Mad Monkeys decrease and suddenly stop.

Along with the sounds of spark and wind.

And immediately after,

"Elk, it's over. So you can come out now~?"

"——!?"

I heard that voice. I step forward in amazement.

I see the figure of that kindhearted person.....standing in that place while calmly brushing off the dust stuck on his clothes.

And then,

Near his feet, there are more than 20 Mad Monkeys,

But they are all now dead corpses that won't release that annoying voice ever again.

Seeing my astonished face with eyes open wide, Minato returns a smile with his innocent child-like looking face.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Minato)

Phew, That surprised me.

I entered the 'Labyrinth of Naga' thinking that if by chance I can meet Elk.

And all of a sudden monkey-like monsters came attacking me.

Furthermore, they were for some reason fighting with good coordination. It seemed like they have a lot experience in group fights.

They were stronger than the goblins from yesterday, but yeah, they were great things to warm-up.

Worried about Elk with these demons roaming here, I started searching for her and suddenly my nose caught a familiar smell.

It was the smell of.....the bacon I ate in my breakfast in the dining hall.

At that moment, I remember Tanya-chan telling me that she made a bentou for Elk.

And I realize that she must have made it with just some left-overs.

Smell of spices was also reaching my nose. I tried to follow the smell thinking 'what if' and Bingo!

I found Elk quite fast.

Ah, I also did the killing of those monkey-like demons.

Are they all violent and used to fighting in groups. They came attacking me as soon as they discovered me, but I killed them all.

After that, I succeed in meeting up with Elk who was hiding in the

shadows of corner of the corridor.

Looks like nothing happened to her Yeah, it's good that she is fine.

.....As for returning route, i'll leave it to Elk. Tsk, I really forgot it.

I bought the map, it won't be good if I don't use it..... Ah, but, this time I entered here through the entrance, so if I trace my smell.....

Anyhow, while I was thinking that, the frozen Elk thaws.

She told me that these monkey-like demons are called 'Mad Monkeys' and about their levels and parts which can be teared off.

Their raw materials will sell for more than the ones from yesterday. Yes, I made profit!

And along with that, I was told a worrisome thing.

These Mad Monkeys are the monsters that only appear on floors below here.

It's an abnormal situation that these are appearing on early floors.

Hmm, so this is what it was?

Is something going to occur in this 'Labyrinth of Naga'.....

Ah, jeez.....It's my first dungeon after leaving home and I'm already involved in some crap situation.

Chapter 13 – Secret of Wall Paintings

“—Seiino!!” [ET: Sorry, but there is no proper english word for this.]

The fist strikes a monster while making a dull *Bakii* sound. Eventually, the monster dies with just one punch.

The demon is not the monkey from before, but a wolfy-bear.....how should I put it, it's appearance is that of a small bear with the head of a wolf. It has red eyes and brown hair. It looks like the mane of a horse.

It's not fast like those monkeys but it does has quite an amount of power. According to Elk this is called as 'Little Beast'.

“.....It's really strange”

Elk murmurs while seeing me killing the 'Little Beast' just now.

“Strange?.....by any chance, this guy also doesn't appear here?”

“Yeah. They live in deepest parts of lower floors. And they are on this first floor.....”

That's right.

Right after kicking the asses of those Mad Monkeys (by alone), I heard from Elk that the dungeon is going through an abnormal phenomenon.

This dungeon, 'Labyrinth of Naga' is an ancient ruin starting from ground floor to 6 floors underground. In total it is of 7 floors.

And either the floor itself or somewhere inside the floor are the demons territories. And it naturally distributes weaker demons from stronger demons, which is convenient for adventurers.

There is a food chain made up inside, and due to that there is rarely any change in the 'distribution'.

According to Elk, right now that 'Distribution' is strange.

For example, on the first floor and near entrance only low-levelled 'Goblin', 'Rabbit' and 'Wolf' appear which rookie adventurer can kill for training.

If they are unfortunate, they will meet up with the 'Spider' which I fought against yesterday or a 'Black Wolf' nothing else.

The more floors you descend you'll meet up with more powerful demons or so is the distribution system.

Like, a 'Scorpion' about the size of a dog.

or giant cockroaches called as 'Roach' which prefer darkness and crawl super fast.

or flame throwing lizards called as 'Red Lizard'

The 'Little Beast' I just defeated is the most dangerous of them all. Normally, they only appear in the lowest floor. Many say that a rookie can't do anything in front of it.

And that right now.....attacked us on the first floor.

This is obviously abnormal. I can't help but think that something is occurring here.

Though I'm curious to know the reason for this abnormal situation, but as they say it's foolish to deliberately poke a sleeping snake. And so the principle that says 'Let the sleeping dog lie' is important here!

And just like Elk said, I decide to leave here as soon as possible.

I tried to.....but due to the demons appearing here and there we can't move as we want.

Well, I can kick their asses if I was alone but right now there is Elk with me.

I have to fight while protecting her.

And so we are roaming here and there to find the route with monsters that are not much fast.

Even so, there are still monsters like the previous one.

While I'm thinking that, Elk is tearing off the useful parts of the 'Little Beast',

"This guys is a rank C? I had only saw it in documents before.....if guys like this are loitering here then all the rookie adventurers will be killed."

"Hmm, now this is an abnormal situation."

C, huh. This is great.

A goblin is E, the monkeys from before are D and this one even one rank above it.

From what I've heard, Elk's rank is E and her friends are also E and D. Even if they all work together, it will be difficult to survive.....this is something even I can understand.

.....By the way, this demon.....

"Hey Elk, I found it strange when fighting the monkey from before too"

"? What happened?"

"Most of these guys are thin?"

Let it be the monkeys or this bear-ish (tearing off completed) thing.

It's like their bodily fluids have been sucked out. It seems like they have too less amount of meat according to their body size.....yeah, as if it's due to malnutrition.

Elk says that she hasn't see them so she doesn't know about their physique. But if it's like what I'm feeling.....

"They lost to some other demon in a fight and came here after losing their place to live, maybe?"

"No.....that can't be. In the first place, this guy is the most strong demon in this dungeon. Others are 'Mad Monkeys' and 'Statue' only....."

So it's impossible to imagine a demon who can defeat them, present in this dungeon, eh

Ah, the 'Statue' is a demon with a body of stone statue and it moves. It mostly appears in historic ruins. It's rank is D.

But, it's only logical if I think about it.....Nh?

"I just heard something....."

"? What? Scream of demons?"

"No, this is coming from before."

I already had good ear and after enhancing my hearing ability along with other senses, I can hear things that Elk can't. So it's only natural for Elk have a '?' float above her head.

The scream of demons are pretty far right now.

But just for one second I did hear it.....

The sound of something really big crawling.



I walk while worrying about it and reach a place which is really spacious.

It's area is about the gymnasium of an elementary school, no, a little small?

This labyrinth is pretty big and there a lot of places which are spacious but this one just somehow seems too much spacious.

And in front of us are numerous corridors. Well this is the so called corridor junction place. Pretty cliché.

This place is underground so it's cool and refreshing. Air is flowing here

from somewhere. This is spacious so there is no locked-up feeling here. If you just be careful from demons then this place quite a pleasant place.

"Only you're the one who says.....that it's pleasant in a dungeon where demons are roaming in crowds."

Oh, I see.

But, this really is more pleasant that I expected. It's spacious, it's not much humid so there is no need to worry about moss accumulating here and this place doesn't has any weird smell.

When I once again think about, it's does pique my interest. This dungeon is dark and underground then why doesn't this place has any humidity? Is there any drainage system here?

I casually ask about it to Elk,

"Yeah, that is because the rock walls here are made of volcanic ash."

"Volcanic ash?"

"Yeah. There is a volcano near this dungeon. Right now there is no danger of it erupting, but.....long ago it was an active volcano. And when the volcanic ash piled up after it erupting, it was used to make rocks and it is the ingredient used in making this dungeon. That's why the drainage is good."

While hearing Elk's story, I surveyed this spacious room.

I see, so this all is made of volcanic ash.

In my previous world, volcanic ash was white, I think, well this is another world with magic and swords. It won't help me thinking about these things.

Well, now that volcano has also stopped its activities so, there is nothing to worry.....

.....Just wait!?

(A volcano near this place?)

My mind grasped something inside the words spoken by Elk in a nonchalant manner.

The things that are coming to my mind are.....various sorts of information that I've gotten a hold of, after coming here.

There is a dormant volcano near here which used to erupt long ago.

Recently, there have been earthquakes and a part of dungeon collapsed.

The monsters who should be on lower floor are on upper floor and are

thin.

And.....the wall painting of snake.

".....Er, Elk, I need to ask about something?"

"Eh, what is it?"

"Do demons, hibernate?"

"Hibernate? Well there are those who do. There are also those who hibernate for 1 whole year instead of just hibernating during the time of winter. Is something wrong with that?"

"So then, do you think this hypothesis is true?"

I take a deep breath and,

"Long ago, and that so, really long ago, this volcano was near here right? Naturally, the climate would've been really hot.....unlike right now."

In general places like cave or underground water areas are places where sunlight doesn't reach and are a lot cooler than the places where sunlight falls on. Then this historic ruin is not an exception from that.

But, if there is a volcano near, then it's another talk.

This place where magma falls, it would've been more than enough to somewhat warm up the ground of the dungeon. And if it was an active volcano then all the more.

"? Well that's true. So then?"

"After the volcano stopped erupting then the ground temperature fell down and the dungeon became cool and refreshing as it is right now. And that so, even before adventurers started entering this dungeon."

"Yeah, well that is true. I've heard that guild investigated here after the active volcano became a dormant volcano."

"I see, then....."

What if, by any chance.

"What if a monster hibernated due to the decline in ground temperature and.....that monster woke up due to the earthquakes happening recently?"

".....Eh?"

From what I've heard, it seems like due to the earthquakes the bedrock broke apart which was quite sturdy.

And all of a sudden an undiscovered treasure room made it's debut appearance.

It's possible that.....not only the treasure room made it's debut appearance.

"And that monster is very ferocious and strong that it eats the monkeys and bear-ish monsters.....Yeah, for example....."

And then I punch the wall painting of the snake made on the wall beside me.

"A.....snake.....like this"

Immediately after,

SFX: Zuri.....ZuriZuri..... (Crawl)

""—-!?"

.....I hear it!

This time I clearly hear it.

The sound of something approaching us at a really fast speed.

".....Er, Minato?"

Elk asks me after hearing my reasoning and after hearing the crawling sound.....while making an expression as if she understood the situation immediately, or rather her face is saying that she was made to understand the situation.

Her face turns pale and her legs start quivering along with her face saying 'Please say that what I'm thinking is wrong.'

"It's a.....joke, right?"

".....Why don't you ask it from the guy behind us?"

Immediately we turn our face back,

and it is the superb timing that it made it's appearance before us, while coming from the other side of darkness.

The thing that appeared before us is a Snake.

The same damned snake whose artistic paintings are made all over the walls of this labyrinth.

It's more thick than a log and it's skin is like an armor that can outshine other armors sold at shops and it's length is about 15 metres.....rather than calling it a snake it's like a dinosaur type of big serpent.

It's like that anaconda which I saw in hollywood movies in my previous life. The impact from seeing it up front is out of this world's measuring

machine. Yeah.

No doubt it. This guys is the reason for all the abnormal situation.

☆☆☆

(POV changes to Elk)

(What.....is that.....!?)

I switched my eyes between the faces of Minato and that 'Snake' repeatedly and fell down as if the power from my legs has been lost.

"Ah.....Eh.....!?"

My voice won't come out. I can't put any power in my legs.

I absolutely can't do anything against the demon which is not a normal demon.

I can't even move my own body.

I can't put power in my legs, I can't stand up. I can't run.

Now that I've lost power in my legs and sat down, I can do nothing but only wait for death to come.

.....The ground under my butt, is getting wet and warm.

Looks like I have peed.

But there is no time left for me to even feel embarrassed about it.

Even after Minato sees me, I don't feel any speck of embarrassment, nothing at all. I don't care about that.

I realized that I don't even have time to think carefully after my sub-consciousness speaks in my mind 'You're going to die in the end.'

I don't have any chance of being saved in front of this demon.

And even if my legs could move, this guy is so large that it's obvious it will catch me easily.

And I can already imagine myself becoming a prey to that guy's big mouth.

I am peeing and crying too.

I lost all my hope while being in that miserable state.

SFX: Zuri.....ZuriZuri.....(Crawl)

Most probably, it sensed that I don't have any intention to run. The big serpent came towards me slowly without hurrying.

Slowly that face, fangs, eyes and everything that will lead me to my 'Death' is approaching towards me.

SFX: Zuri.....ZuriZuri.....(Crawl)

The sound of it crawling near me reaches my ears. It is gradually becoming larger.

Not just its appearance but also with the sound of it approaching me is enough to instill fear in me.

I can't move, can't resist, but I'm still scared,

My heartbeat becomes faster and I can properly hear it,

I can't stop my tears, my body is quivering, and my teeth are already chattering.

I am sure that I'm looking really miserable right now, but I.....

I.....

SFX: –Hyuu (Flying sound)

".....Eh?"

Suddenly, I feel like my body is floating in mid-air.

Immediately after,

I landed near the wall on the opposite side of the snake and now the distance between us quite a lot.

.....I land there while being held by Minato in his arms.

A second later, I realize that I reached here while being held by Minato.

Within just one second, we distanced ourselves from the snake to an unbelievable extent.

After seeing Minato from up close.....I understand that in contrast to me, Minato is quite calm even after seeing that scary devil demon.

Minato puts me on the floor gently,

"Stay behind, Elk. or rather, don't move from here."

Minato separates his eye from me and stands straight,

and then starts walking towards the snake while scowling at it.

For a second, it looked like the snake became bewildered. It's natural, after all, even the snake wouldn't have predicted it.

That a human will,

A person from the frail race which is small and weak than him is not having any speck of fear or shock like me and is standing in front of him brimming with the expectation to fight it.

"Well then.....finally someone I can fight to my heart's content made it's appearance.....?"

Chapter 14 – The Real Power

Err, the current situation is,

In front of my eyes is a dinosaur-like big serpent.

Rather its face is totally like that of a dinosaur. It ain't on a damn level of a snake.

Behind me is Elk sitting down on the floor, after losing her leg strength.

Looks like, she is very scared after seeing this snake.

She is not only shedding tears, but also peeing that is not suitable for her age.

She is sitting there so it's hard to understand her expression.

Anyhow, I carry her to the opposite wall and put her down.

And now, I am standing in between Elk and the dinosaur-like snake to protect her.

In this situation where a heroin is in a desperate situation behind me, I, am thinking about something.

(.....What shall I do about this atmosphere.....)

Awkward.

Really REALLY awkward.

What is awkward? Well it's obvious.

After seeing a girl peeing in front of your eyes, that-, err-, as an opposite gender what should I say to her.....

No, well, it's only natural in this situation without thinking about the age, right?

I don't mind it at all though?

I'm not concerned about it,

but right now Elk's heart might be a bit complicated because she showed such a scene to a person of the opposite gender.

How should I put it, just how will I close the sense of distance after this ends.....

Oh, to hell with it! This is all your fault, baka-hebi! [AK: idiot-snake; cause i like the jp term more xD]

No well, let's think about this after I kill this thing!

Though I'm postponing this matter, but it's not a wrong choice because I need to get over with this damn snake!

And that's how it is,

「Then, let's fight」

Maybe seeing me shaking my wrist for a little warm-up exercise, it realized that I have no intention of getting eaten silently.

And the big serpent tries to intimidate me by hissing.

Yeah, I can feel it.

That this guy is on a different level from those monkeys and bear-like monster.

And right after,

『-GuyAAAaaAAAA!!!』(Snake)

「oOo!」(The going-with-the-flow Minato)

「Kyaaaa!?!」(The not-going-with-the-flow Elk)

It yells in a very loud voice, maybe it is echoing in the whole dungeon by now.

And reflexively, I and Elk both shout as if surprised.

Leaving that aside, the snakes can't roar or yell or whatever after all their vocal organs don't develop, right?

Whatever. This guy is a dinosaur-like thing.

While thinking as such, I move to the place where Elk won't be hurt even if it comes flying at me. And seeing me moving it starts to put power in its body. Oh, finally coming?

—Immediately after,

He unleashes his mouth aiming at me in a speed unthinkable due to his large body.

「Whoa, oops!」

I dodge his very fast attack with a side-step and drive a punch in the side of its face.

The gauntlet clashes with the scales and makes a *gakiin* sound which is very offensive to the ears.

But, this damn thing is really hard.

As an experiment, I drove the punch with the power which can even smash the bones of the 'Little Beast' from before, but just as expected this guy didn't even flinch.

Immediately, he attacks at me by changing his course and is snarling at me. I somehow dodge it.

However, as if it learned or has wild instincts, the serpent, wraps his body to the extreme and shoots itself towards me. Ah, not good, this will hit me.

The speed might not be what I can not dodge, but still I choose to defend.

It's not a bad thing to know the power of your opponent.

I cross my hands in front of face and prepare to for the impact, immediately following, the log-like body hits vigorously.

「Dowaaa!？」

My body jumped and without being able to bear the impact.....blows towards the back.

「Minato!？」

「—Whoops! I'm fine. Its all right!」

「Impossible!?!」

I got blown.....but I still reply casually while flying in the air.

I twist my body in air and grab the floor firmly like a cat for slowing down. I somehow, cut off the momentum before hitting the wall.

At the same time, I inspect my body for any damages from the current attack.

.....*pew* No injuries. No problem in movement too.

If it's this level of attack, I'll be fine even after getting a direct hit.

When I stand up and turn to the big serpent, it was already preparing to launch itself towards me.

It's speed is a lot more than before, most probably more powerful too.

Oh well, the fangs do scare me, I'll evade this time.

Once again, the side-step appears.

.....Ah, no, this is different? Right now I didn't mean it as a joke, it is just by reflex.....I'm saying the truth. Please believe me! I'm not a KY to that extent(Would like believe)!

Right now it was just a word magic, or not, it was just an unfortunate coincidence!

[ET: Most won't understand his explaining his joke as in English it just doesn't sound like a joke!]

Shit, this ain't the time to think about this!

Suddenly, the big serpent wraps his body to the extreme and once again aims at me and shoots itself in a ridiculously fast speed. Whoa, pretty fast.

Did it get serious because it couldn't eat me.....Nh?

I realize one strange thing.

(.....What is this smell?)

From inside the mouth of the snake an irritating smell of something decayed along with the putrid smell of the corpses he might have eaten reaches my nose.

And a burbling sound also comes from inside the mouth.

.....Something is coming. No it's not body but something else.

And just like I thought, the snake which looked like it'll come attacking me like before decelerates and opens its mouth wide.

The moment I see something of yellow-green color, I jump to the side and dodge it.

And one second later, the place I was just standing at, collides with the unknown liquid spit by the snake -most probably a venom or digestive liquid of some sort-.

The sturdy floor of the labyrinth starts melting while making sounds. So it is acid.

It is still not able to completely melt the floor, but yeah, it's pretty powerful. It will easily melt the metals.

What is it going to do by dissolving me if it wants to eat me later. Well whatever, it's not my job to think that.

And it looks like this acid is volatile because it starts evaporating by raising a yellow-green colored smoke.

It's evaporating speed is definitely faster than the evaporating speed of sterilization alcohol. In some minutes, most of the liquid of I don't know how many litres, evaporated.

The moment, the smell of the evaporated liquid reaches my nose, I

suddenly realize.

Immediately,

I take off the scarf around my neck and throw it towards Elk.

「Elk cover your mouth with it. Don't inhale the gas」

「Eh? G-gas?」

「Yeah, the gas created by the evaporation of the acid, judging by the smell, most likely, it is a type of paralyzing poison. It is pretty powerful and a normal human won't move for some minutes if inhaled. I think」

I remember it, because there was one guy in the forest which used the same thing. Though, it's acid didn't evaporate to form gas.

I see so the main reason for this acid is for the opponent to evade and let down his guard and then inhale the gas.

“I-I am thankful for that, but are you alright!? The meaning you said ‘judging by the smell’ means you are inhaling it from before.....”

「Yeah, its alright. A poison of this level won't work on me.」

「Won't work.....?」

Before our talk was over, the snake showed some movements.

This time it didn't came leaping at me but is.....groaning while staying in it's place.

But the smell of the same acid from before reached my nose. Maybe it intends to paralyse me or inflict damage with the help of acid.

Well, I don't even need to see the same attack again, the moment I thought that,

the same yellow-green color starts coming out of the snake along with the bloodlust which was not present just before.

It's different from the one from before.

I hesitated for a moment whether should I attack it or not.

But, the big serpent seeing my actions as a good opportunity, opened his mouth wide.

At that moment, a yellow-green colored steam spewed out from the inside the of the serpent's mouth like a spay, no, like how a dragon breathes fire -not like I have seen it-and the steam covers my whole body.



「Minatoo—!?!」

Elk becomes depressed for various unidentified reason after seeing the guy protecting her getting engulfed inside the steam of acid and paralysing poison.

Elk raises a sorrowful voice by seeing the scene.

On the other hand, the snake yelled a victory roar as if he won with his deadly breath.

And a bit later it peeks inside the poison mist, for seeing the pitiable prey of his dying.

.....But,

「Sorry to say it out loud.....but this won't work on me!」

I don't know whether my voice reached the ears of the snake.

but, still I'm sure that this guy in front of my eyes has bewilderment instilled inside it's eyes. Monster's expressions (?) are quite easy to read.

Elk also is astonished, her voice too is not coming out.

I'm a little happy that her face has an expression which is saying 'relief' and not only fright.

But well, it's only natural to be surprised. After all, I'm alive and pimpin' inside a dense fog of acid and poison.

While emitting an aura-like thing of bluish-white color.

Maybe they will see the true form of the aura, which is a mixture of 'Steam' and 'Light' if they see closely.

The light and steam is a defensive membrane made from magic for protecting myself from the dense fog of acid.

In the first place, an acid which can just melt stone and steel can't even melt one hair on my body which is enhanced by『Elemental Blood』 and if inhaled at most it will make me cough for a bit.

But the extent of『Enhancement』is only till there.

It can't block the stinking smell which will stick to my clothes and skin and hair.

And I seriously hate the smell.

Just because my nose is better than others, I always have to be careful for these things.

Well then, leaving this talk aside,

From what I have concluded after fighting after this snake, it looks like it's power is near or close to that of those demons in the forest.

Now it's the time to use 'this' without reservations.

I cancel the defensive membrane and face the snake.

So then, let's start the work of the day!

「I'm getting serious from now on... hebi-yarou」[AK:snakey-dude]

I don't know if he understood my words.

But he must have surely understood that I'm making fun of him. And the big serpent attacks just like before by throwing its body towards me.

It won't hurt me, but I ain't got any obligation to get hit by him. I let the attack come near me to the extreme, then I dodge it by shifting sideways.

While dodging, I fill up my fist with magic.

A different magical power from before.

My clenched fist releases a green light and air starts making a vortex around it.

「Take.....this!!」

SFX: *Dogoo* (Boom)

I punch it's flank with power, different from before.

The moment, my fist strikes it, it starts creating a windstorm.

With that one punch, the log-like body flies many metres back.

The big serpent is pushed back as it raises an irritating cry.

The place my punch hit has cracks in its scales and are breaking down.

Blood is also falling down from the cracks. Looks like magic power has worked. With this much power, it does take damage.

For some time, it looked like the snake is looking at me blankly as if saying it didn't understand what just happened.

Well, it does has a large body, so it might be the first time it has experienced the feeling of 'blowing by punch'.

.....But, I've got no obligation to wait for him to come back to earth.

I jump at it while my leg is releasing green color and my right hand is releasing red color.

The moment I kick the ground, I get on the whirlwind and accelerate. I close the distance between us in some seconds.

「One more time!!!」

This time it didn't get blown, but.....the place my punch hits an explosion occurs with tremendous explosive power.

But, it has resistance to heat and all, so it did not do the damage that I expected.

it just burned some scales of it. Damn, fire is not good!

Seeing that, the snake didn't seem much astonished but had anger of getting blown before.

It attacks me by leaping and wriggling its body or with his tail. Anyhow, it is rampaging in anger. It keeps attacking me fiercely like waves after waves.

It's body is long and thick, and it can move fast, so it is pretty troublesome.

Because it is attacking in anger, it's body or tail hits the walls and floor which results in pebble or big rocks to fly at me.

「Argh, you're so fucking annoying!!」

I'm avoiding all the attacks, but yeah its troublesome, so let's just stop that guy.

I fill magic in my right hand, this time it emits yellow light.

I slip through the attacks of snake and close my distance. And then, attack it with the heel of my palm.

Then,

SFX:—*Bashiin*

SFX:—*Pachiliilii*

The insides of the cave became bright for a moment along with the stinging sound and the sound of something breaking.

At the the same time, the body of the big serpent stiffens.

It's body is convulsing and is stiffened as if it has been hit by lightning.

.....In truth, it did take lightning, or rather electric current.

Electricity is still coming out from the heel of my palm. That dinosaur-like snake got hit by my attack and the electricity.

Ah, before that, I need to confirm something.

「Oi! Elk?」

「Eh!?」

I call out to Elk who didn't get any role time for some time and is still sitting.

Maybe she was dumbfounded by the attack. Her body started shivering after I call her name.

「Fragments didn't reach you? Are you alright?」

「Eh? Y-yeah, I'm alright.....Minato, is that magic?」

「Nh? Uh, Yeah, I'll tell you later, so no inquisition for now」

I will tell Elk later, but this the way I fight normally.

And it's name is the awesome『Magic Arts』.

This is one of the main fighting magic my mom taught me along with『Elemental Blood』.

I not only enhance my physical strength or my agility. I change the 'nature' of the magic inside my body and thanks to that I'm able to bring

out such powerful attacks.

For example in the case of punch. If I fill it up with fire magic then it will turn into a burning/exploding punch.

If I fill it up with wind magic, then it will turn into a punch which can increase the power of my punch along with creating a windstorm for blowing the opponent really far.

If I put wind magic in my leg, then I can accelerate with it's propulsive power and can protect my body if I cover my body with water magic.

And during the training with mom, I found out that I have talent in all the 8 categories of magic in this world like『Fire』,『Water』,『Wind』,『Earth』,『Ice』,

『Lightning』,『Light』and『Darkness』. And just like that, I practices them to the extremes and enhanced my Taijutsu.

[AK: for those who do not know Taijutsu (It. body skill/technique) means all empty-handed combat skills; to keep it short]

Till now all opponents were weak so I didn't had any need to use this and so it didn't made it's debut, but this is my fighting style. While I was in the forest, I had a lot more chances to use this.

By the way, I electrified my hand with the『Lightning』magic and attacked the body of the snake.

So I attacked it with lightning and my powerful punch, which caused the snake's muscles to strain and stop its movements.

Well then leaving all this talk once again aside,

I need to kill it before anything unexpected happens.

It is the first demon with stout body and is of different variety that I've fought, so i got elated and played with it.....but now that I'm back to earth, I need to finish this.

I don't want Elk to get hurt just because I am playing with it.

Now that I know Elk is fine, I return my line of sight to the big serpent.

When I do so, the snake is glaring at me with hostility and vigilance.

It must have realised that I'm different from other preys. In various meanings.

But from its investigation. It looks like it didn't tell the snake to hesitate even a bit.

The big serpent re-activates his attacking. It attacks like an idiot which only knows one way of attack.

This time I will.....not dodge.

It's large mouth opened wide approaches me.

I let it come close to me and at the last moment.....drive a kick in the lower part of its mouth.

I attack just like before, by filling it up with magic power. The body of snake shakes like sea waves.

As a result, the head of big serpent slips past me.

Moreover, by getting a strong blow near its chin, its body stiffened for a bit.

But then, I'm not expecting it to give cerebral concussion. There is no chance it will.

In that time while it's stiffened, I quickly slip near its throat and lower my hips to stand firmly.

[ET: Near its throat mean. Under the snake's throat.]

At the same moment, my right hand near my hips starts releasing a kind yet powerful looking orange color.

The magic I'm using is different from the ones I used before. This time it is.....

『Earth』.

This is the most suitable magic for increasing the 'horsepower'.

[TL Notes: by horsepower, Mc means his strenght]]

And that magic is gradually being filled up in my right hand fist.

「Haaaaaaa.....!!」

While sighing I fill up the energy.

In this way, by sighing I can increase my concentration which is impossible for any idiot.

And there is a need to give the techniques a name because it is also needed for the same reason I am sighing and as such I was taught by mom.

Before I knew it, the gentle yet powerful orange light started glowing in my surroundings with my fist as the center.

The light is gradually getting stronger.

And even before the snake twists its body for attacking me, I release my strongest attack today.

『Megaton.....Punch!!!』

I firm my feet and put my weight in the fist and drive it near the place where the snake's medulla oblongata might be present.

At the moment of impact, a loud sound rivalling the cry of snake reaches my ear. It is as if a 10 ton truck collided it.

My one attack, smashes all the scales of the snake, breaks the muscles, the inner bones are pulverized and it's spinal cord is torn in pieces.

I felt that, err, lively feeling through my fists.

It's the feeling of the big-serpent dying.

The body of the already dead snake felt the impact of the attack a second later and flies into the air.

It's 20 m body heroically flies and strikes the opposite side wall of this room, making a loud noise.

It's body convulses for some seconds and stops moving.

In a sense fast and in a sense dramatically, the king of the『Labyrinth 』welcomed it's death.

I remain on guard with my fist pushed forward. I stay vigilant whether

the snake will move again or not.

After I confirm the snake died, I lower my guard.

「Fuu—.....Well, something like this」

Yeah, It was a worthwhile battle both for experience and information.

Though it might be due selfishness, but I got a good experience to keep on working as an adventurer. Thank you very much big-serpent-san for letting me get experience.

Now then, all that is left is.....

「So Elk, shall we return?」

「Eh? Ah, Y-yeah.....」

I bring Elk back to Earth who was in space just till now.

Now there is no reason to remain in this dungeon anymore. Let's just take the spoils and leave here.

Chapter 15 – Her Troubles Part 1

“Err.....you k-killed this.....?”

“Ah Yes. It seemed like an undiscovered demon so I brought the whole corpse with me. I heard that if I submit it to the guild, I can get rewards.”

[ET: Minato is not in guild, just for info for those people who are thinking he is in guild.]

“Eh? Ah, Yes, that is true.....”

“I’m very sorry for troubling you to come here. Bringing this in the city will obviously cause a great ruckus.”

“No, I don’t mind it.....”

Well, you see,

If you’re wondering what is happening, in simple words.....Riin-san, who was dispatched by Guild after getting a request and me are talking in the vicinity of the entrance to『Labyrinth of Naga』.

Elk is also here, but she is behind me completely mute.

Surrounding us are many curious onlookers shouting ‘What is it’.

The Guild has declared ‘Don’t come near it’ and affixed a restriction

line. So it is only natural that they are all facing towards us from a certain distance.....

The thing we brought is.....the corpse of the『Big Serpent』which was running wild just a while ago.

☆☆☆

After killing the『Big Serpent』(TN: 『大蛇』) which we encountered out of pure coincidence, we both left the dungeon and thought about foolish things like『Big Serpent』(TN: “Daija”『だいじゃ』) can be called as『Big Serpent』(TN: “Orochi”『おろち』)

Anyhow, we both didn't wanted to remain inside anymore, so we rushed towards the city at full speed.

And, it's a good opportunity, so the corpse of Big Serpent also came with us.

But seriously it would be shit to drag and carry a corpse of Big Serpent which is more than 20 metres long and 1 metre thick.

And so we came up with a plan.

Inside my『Backpack』a jet-black pole was stored.

At a glance, it would seem like a normal pole but this is a magic item with many gimmicks inserted in it and is unbelievably strong and flexible.

I got it when I completed the ridiculous test sponsored by mom. Its one of many things she gave me at that time saying it was a congratulatory gift.

1 of the gimmick is that it can extend and retract to some extent, it's just like the pole of some monkey aiming for the seat of heavenly kings.

It has other gimmicks, but that is a story for another time.

And so I extended the pole and wrapped the corpse of Big Serpent and then made it compact (somewhat), that's how I brought it out.

It's weight is still many tonnes but for my enhanced body it's is an easy task.

And so we both aimed for the exit while carrying the corpse in a way that it won't get stuck in the corridors of labyrinth.

As we reached the exit, the eyes of steadily populating adventurers did made me feel a bit anxious.

It only natural. After all, I walked around while carrying the corpse of an not-yet-known big serpent. It will surprise anyone, it's eyeballing.

It didn't feel good, so I tried to ignore them to my utmost ability as if I gave up on giving an explanation.

And like that we somehow left the dungeon but it was obvious from the already populated curious onlookers that if this thing got into town what it would become then.

So I rushed to the nearest local police station (Don't know it's official name) of the guild.

If a dungeon is of low-level then places like this are near them for administrative purposes.

The staff members of the local police station sprang up after seeing this on my shoulders. Well anyhow, I explained the story and requested for cart/wagon-like thing for transportation.

In this way, it would cause less ruckus than seeing one person carrying this on a shoulder.

It's quite common for transporting raw materials of demons using cart/wagon(s).

.....Flashback ends. Back to the beginning(TN: Present).

And the person who is dispatched is Riin-san who helped with the adventurer registration.

Seeing her well-ordered face (with glasses) showing various expressions like surprise, is actually pretty interesting.

".....Excuse me. I got distracted, sorry."

"Ah, No, I don't mind....."

"A-Anyhow, thank you for your hard work, Minato-sama. As per requested, we will carry the corpse of this demon to guild."

When Riin-san instructed saying 'Please take it' then the fellow guild members who came with her started putting the corpse of big serpent in the cart/wagon.

Well, it's weight is no joke so it took them some struggle. The cart/wagon is now over-full.

Around this time Elk makes a complete comeback.

Until now she was freaking out and trembling but now she showed a relief expression after seeing the corpse of the big serpent being disposed of.

"Ah, Elk, you alright now?"

"Y-Yeah, I'm fine, probably..... Anyhow I want to sleep today as fast as possible."

"Well it was one troublesome day. Riin-san what shall we do after this?"

"I want you both to return to guild and tell the story in more detail is what I would like to say, but.....if you're tired then I won't force you."

As one would expect, they will have to hear from us about the subjugated unknown monster, but it'll fine to report to guild either tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

She even said 'You're pretty tired, go sleep today'

Well, I'm not that much tired, but Elk is really giving of the feeling that she is on her limit both mentally and physically.

"Ah, can I ask you something?"

Suddenly, Elk who started returning turned around and asked Riin-san.

"Err.....this might be a vulgar thing to ask, but will we get money for this monster?"

"You're right. This is an unknown monster found in『Labyrinth of Naga』 and is in complete form. Therefore, after the inquiry tomorrow we will investigate a bit and according to that will we give the rewards."

"When will be the reward paid to us?"

"Not only raw materials and body confirmation but the information is also required.....at fast it will be paid day after tomorrow or else during the next week. Is there any problem?"

"No, not really.....Thank you"

Elk starts walking again after answering her,

.....? Just what is was it right now?

Riin-san also thought something but soon returned to her work without thinking much.

Well then, I'll also return back to Inn.

Riin-san asked us to drop us off at inn, but I rejected.

If we return back with that thing, it will cause quite a ruckus.

And so Elk and I decided decided to return back home by walking on the street where monsters rarely appear.

Well my work is to escort Elk who is not in her normal condition.



Maken no Daydreamer Chapter 15 Part 2

".....Um, Minato?"

"Nh?"

".....You.....No, nothing"

"What happened?"

From before a somewhat inquisitive gaze is being sent to me from Elk. Just why might it be.

No, well, it's only natural in one way. I think I already know the reason.

From Elk and Riin-san's expressions, it's obvious that this big serpent is more powerful than the other demons in the labyrinth. Well, it's natural after all this thing was preying on other demons inside.

Well I did kill this thing bare-handed, so it's only natural for her to stare at me like that.

It will be alright for her to give me stares of fear or she should stay vigilant, after all, a weak frail child like me killed something like this.

Even though she is just walking with me without asking anything - though she is staring at me-.

I don't know whether she is paying attention to me or she has some other intention.

Well, there is no help thinking about it, while I thought that, Elk once again opens her mouth.

"Minato, can I ask you something?"

"? What happened?"

"I'm sorry for asking at this time but.....I have a request. It's about the reward which will come with the information and corpse of that big serpent.....you see.....?"

"? Yeah, it will be hassle for me so I'm thinking of splitting it in equal half....."

"I see, equal halves.....Haaaaa!?"

Wow, that surprised me!

Elk suddenly shouts which breaks her quiet and docile atmosphere which was lingering on her till now. W-Why!?

And after passing the condition of 'wanting to speak but can't'.

"Y.....Just what are you saying, huh!? Eh, what.....the reward of that snake in equal halves!?"

"Eh? well, we are getting it as a team....."

"No, even so, aren't you the one who killed it 100%! What are you thinking!? Isn't this the time when you should've taken the whole rewards! Even I thought about it yesterday, I didn't help you in any way!? Idiot!? Are you an idiot!? Aren't you an idiot!?"

Elk is panicking. She is bad mouthing me with all her heart in her words.[AK:or wholeheartedly] Calm down.

No, well she is saying the truth, but.....don't just call me idiot three times repeatedly.

It would have been a different thing if I went alone inside the labyrinth, but.....Elk was with me there, though she was sitting the whole time.

We fought like a team (?), so we should split the reward equally. Thinking like this is instilled in my blood, because of the hunting game I used to play.

Well, it is me who killed it 100%, but she won't mind taking loan from me right.....

Just, even though I think like that, there is one thing I'm concerned about.

"Err.....You need money, right? Then wouldn't it this way be more convenient for you?"

".....!!"

And,

For some reason, Elk starts trembling. What happened? You fine?

".....Why....."

"?"

"Why are you so kind.....!! Towards a girl like me who always thinks and talks about money and is greedy....."

No, I'm not actually kind, bluntly speaking, I hate thinking about splitting profits. Even if I get all the money, I don't have any way of spending it at all. Well, I don't know about the future, though.

And, I feel hesitation for no reason while taking a large amount of money even though I know that Elk is in need for money right now.

After all this she can't just be some stranger to me, so won't it be good to give the money to her, such a thought flashed through my mind.

How should I say it, but the feeling, that she is desperate, is somehow being transmitted to me.

And that Elk, is for some reason, trembling and feeling anxious.

She doesn't has any problem with me giving her money, but it seems like it is hard to accept it. And is clenching her fist very tightly as if it is a claw of demon.

".....You are"

"Nh?"

"Are you always like this to anyone? Indiscriminately kind.....I'll say this in advance, though kind and honest people may seem nice and good but they won't live a good life because of that. In this world, only the strong people live and the honest people are fools."

Those words spill out from Elk's mouth as if she is squeezing out those words.

And it seems like this time she spoke her true feelings.....no doubt about it.

Within the eyes she is looking me at, are various emotions present.

Her eyes contain sadness, envy and anger. I haven't seen eyes like these within my whole previous life.

But the feeling that she is cornered and is helpless is also transmitted to me.

I don't know the reason for her to be cornered, I'm an outsider, so I won't touch that matter.

Err, she said, am I like that to everyone, right?

"No, that can't be possible. I myself think I am pretty egoistic and a dry humoured person? I even assertively ignore problems that have no relation to me."

"Where is that!? Aren't I that another person with no relation to you and has problems to deal with! Why are caring so much about me, when you just met me only yesterday....."

"Yeah, well, you're right. I would say then it must be because Elk is desperately working hard"

".....Desperately.....?"

"Yeah. Well, Elk, you are more or less full of vigor, you're kind, you maintain everything and one thing or another you take good care of anyone. Putting aside your true intentions, but you're earnestly to me like a friend. Though, I don't know much about the world, but people like you are rare, right?"

That's why I can't leave her alone, or rather I just want to help her for some reason.

Well, the factor that she is the first person I met after leaving home might also be important.

".....Where is it. You really don't understand anything. Earnest and diligent, those are things completely far from me....."

"After all"

I cut off her words with my sentence,

"You regret on the things you have done. You regret, reflect on it, and still be diligent is something most people can't do, aren't I right?"

The moment I said it,

Elk's face color starts changing.

Her expression has fear, astonishment, anxiety etc mixed in.

She timidly and slowly faces me,

".....You already knew?"

".....What?"

Though this might be cruel, I still reply her with a question.

It's easy to mention it right now.

But she is right now trembling and unstable. So should I finish the matter myself, or should I leave it for the flow.

Most likely, if I leave it on the flow.....then she would be willing to accept whatever the outcome will be.

Either she becomes a fool or get's caught by law.

But, if she has that much resolve.....then she should decide her life by herself, or so I think.

That's why I will leave it to her.

I don't what result will it leave, but I will try to believe in her 'Desperation'.

Though it's only an intuition, but I think that she is diligent and always has her heart prepared for anything.

That's why she is suffering from her crimes, her thinking and surrounding environment too. She still has conscience for suffering and resolve for not losing her way.

Because I felt it, that's why I'm not paying any heed to her 'You already knew' and facing Elk feigning ignorance.

If it's her, then she will definitely.....

.....No, lets not think about it.

Even if I predict it, nothing is going to change.

".....Minato"

"Nh?"

".....Sorry"

Eventually, without talking after that short conversation, we both returned to the inn.

Though I noticed a flash of light in Elk's eyes, but let's once again feign ignorance.



"Minato-san is it true that you killed an amazing demon!!?"

".....You got good ears....."

The moment I return to inn, the daughter of innkeeper.....Tanya-chan said to me these words.

Currently, I am captured by this poster girl whose eyes are sparkling.

Well, it's not unreasonable.

If a demon like that comes out of that labyrinth, it will become rumours.

And the adventurers, generally all have a loose tongue which runs anywhere.

No, what I said is wrong. To restate it, I would rather say that the transmission of information is fast.

That's why even if the talk is on the level of rumour but the impact it has is big then the transmission is also really fast.

It's only a matter of time that people know about us bringing corpse and about the unknown demon in『Labyrinth of Naga』.....no, it's even faster than 'a matter of time'

After all, many saw us bringing its body tied on a pole and with me shouldering it till the time guild staff came and took it back.

Furthermore, it's strange to say it myself, but my appearance is quite conspicuous.

I had heard it from mom and felt it while walking through town too, that black-haired and black-eyed people are really rare in this world.

Blonde or brown hair; People with hair color like that are more common. There are also many variants of eyes like blue, red, gray, green et cetera.

And even my attire is;

My clothes, equipments, scarf too all is jet-black. Ah by the way even my backpack is black. And in clothes some purple-colored lines are inserted.

Though I'm repeating it, but my eyes and hair are also both black.

It's only natural that I will stand out. It's only natural that I will leave some sort of impression.

In that case, it's very VERY natural for a rumour like『A man in black killed a great demon in the『Labyrinth』』to spread in the city people and reach Tanya-chan.

Most likely, it started from those adventurer who returned to city after seeing the serpent.

Though I know that.....but I never thought, it will be this fast.

It's only near 2 hours since we left the『Labyrinth』and still the rumours have reached Tanya-chan who rarely leaves the inn.

“No, well it is still on the level of rumours? But from that reaction, it seems like it is the truth?”

“Yeah, well, I even have some parts of it tucked up.”

“Woo~w! I had heard that Minato-san is a rookie. What if I am talking to the future hero-sama? Kyaa♪”

This girl getting excited by herself.

However, when she says as such, I can feel many eyes looking at me.

From where? From all over the place.

From the time I was walking through the town.....till the time I entered the inn, I am feeling at least 1 or 2 people looking at me.

Though from the feeling that is coming from gazes.....it seems like the persons are adventurers..... Are they appraising me or what?

“I heard the rumour of the person being a『Man in black』, so not many would have thought that Onii-san is the person, but I am always seeing

that appearance of Onii-san~. Your clothes, eyes, hair, backpack, everything is completely black."

"Haha.....well it will definitely become something like『What if it's him』."

I see. So the reason Tanya-chan knew it's me is because of two reasons:

The speed of rumours

my appearance

Even though, it's good that we came faster than the cart/wagon carrying the

『Snake』. So it was worth rushing our way back.

If we reached here when the corpse of that『Big Serpent』had arrived, I'm damn sure it would've been more troublesome.....

And if we reached after the corpse had come here, then it would've been damned even more troublesome.

However, even that cart/wagon will cross through the main street after some minutes.

It will be good to remain silent and calm today and return to room.....
Even Elk is tired.

.....If you're talking about tired people,

(By the way, Minato-san)

(What, Tanya-chan?)

(What happened to Onee-sa.....Elk-san? She is depressed more than she ever had been.....even I can't get in the mood to tease her.)

Oh, she actually can read the atmosphere.

She won't call her『Onee-sama』right now. I thought she was an oblivious person, but looks like she can also be serious, though in the place where the person in talk can't see.

(Ah, Yeah, just leave her be. She is tired for various reasons)

(Well she is an adventurer, she must have a lot going on. Well, today I will act diligently. Minato-san, though she is inexperienced, please take care of Elk-san)

She said something to that is completely unneeded.

.....I can't do anything about her. It's her own problem.

She probably joked with me for softening the atmosphere. Tanya-chan sends a worrying gaze.

She is sending it towards the second floor while,

she starts serving other people,

and is giving me a stare filled with『Hostility』

.....Unexpectedly, the situation just leaps ignoring many steps.

Chapter 16 – Determination and Ridicule and Tears Part 1

It was 3 months ago when Elk Caucus first met them.

Beginning of things was because of a weapon Elk found in a weapon shop she passed by, due to pure luck.

For some reason, Elk decided to buy that weapon, but the price of the weapon which was decorated as a showcase was not something any novice adventurer get take out of their pockets.

There was someone who supported Elk's shoulders at the time she was in a frantic to buy the weapon.

.....Thinking it now,it was completely obvious.

Why didn't I think it was really unnatural, Elk though as such within the past 3 months.

That man introduced himself as someone affiliated with the organization which supported novice adventurers who have promising futures.

Even the shopkeeper introduced him, saying he was a man you put trust in.

Furthermore, the organization in which the man was affiliated, was even a major dealer in this『Volka』, this alone let Elk trust him.

Elk took the man's word seriously and finally took a loan.

.....The place she took the money from was the so-called『Illegal Loan』 and the shopkeeper who guaranteed the trust was also an accomplice of them. It was only the following week that Elk noticed the truth, when a bill of many folds more amount than the principal reached the inn.

The most troublesome thing was that the contract was virtually completed without any problems.

The problem was just personal problems, but no problems legally.

If there was no legal problem, then army and guards like police organizations won't also move.

Was there no illegal point in the contract or was there any gaps in the contract.

Elk thinking that, desperately read the contract many times -She skimmed reading the contract 1 time-to find any gaps in it regarding money problems.

A month and a little had passed, Elk who was diligent and had higher learning ability too, went to a specialist who deals with such matters.

But, the conclusion derived after going there was『Nothing can be done』.The heartless words.

Different from Minato's previous life, in this world there was no interest rate set on the illegal loans and so only the rate with the mutual agreement was taken as the rate.

If the signature and seal were real and legal, then there was no place to run.

Elk who understood that was puzzled.

From then till the present day, Elk was desperately trying to raise her money by going in dangerous areas, going in labyrinths and hunting demons.

However, though she tried her best to pay the interest, but there was no signs of her debt going down.

If she was unable to repay the debt, then she would either be degraded to a slave or either send to a brothel.

If that happened, then after that point, there was no freedom, but hell waiting.

Elk who understood that was cornered to the extreme, then some days before the men brought an offer to her.

That was helping in kidnapping, just like a devil's deal.

The procedure was fairly simple.

One just had to pretend as victim of something or lie down on the road to trick the person who seemed kindhearted and had money to get closer to it.

And bring that person to the place where the kidnappers were waiting for ambush.

The money gotten from the goods and belongings of the prey and after selling the prey off to slave dealers, would be split in portions and that portion, amount of money, will be deducted from her debt.

No matter what, she didn't want to drop that down as a human being and rejected the offer. But, yesterday, after seeing the large amount of money on Minato, before she even knew, she was『Guiding』Minato.

To the place where she had been informed before『We will wait here today, if you feel like it then bring us the prey, for the sake of both of us』

Most probably, Along with dozens of silver coins and the things inside the backpack along with the equipment too will be able to complete the debt, thinking that Elk's unreliable reasoning power withdrew back.

She was making excuses to herself which don't even pass as an excuse like. If I don't do it, nothing will be solved.

The miscalculation was that Minato was strong.

So strong that he didn't care about the kidnappers surprise attack.

And this time she tried to use Minato's power to raise money through legal means while being burdened with the feelings of guilt and self-hatred for doing illegal work and getting engulfed in greed.

She thought of telling Minato about debt, but didn't do it.

Right now she was suffering from the failure of being unable to repay the debt. The act of taking『Loan』had already become a trauma for her. In the very least, she only had evasion feeling regarding it for now.

The money she had won't be able to repay the debt due to its increasing interest rate, this was also one of the reasons.

In reality, there were 10 gold coins in Minato's backpack which might be able to help reduce the debt but neither did Elk knew of their existence nor she would have asked even if she knew.

And so, she tried the method in which she could also help.

But, in this process after being in contact with Minato's child-like honesty and kindness, Elk felt her ugliness becoming distinct.

Even though, she wasn't calm at that time, but it was her who agreed to the contract without reading the contract agreement conditions.

It was self-destruction, nothing else.

For covering it up, she involved other people, used the good intentions, trampled the trust underfoot and in the end she hated herself for again taking the money.

And she hated herself even more after being saved by Minato from the big serpent inside the『Labyrinth』

The moment, she was gazing at her ugly self in the reflection of window, a letter reached her.



Chapter 16 Part 2

"Hey, just what did you say?"

"I refuse. I said that. There is no way you didn't hear it?"

At dusk.

The time was at the borderline and it felt like after an hour or two the sun will also go down.

The place was, wastelands on the outskirts of the city.

Elk had by herself come to the place which was written in the letter she got before.

From the many men surrounding Elk with bad countenance, one man.....the man who warned her on yesterday's night spoke while furrowing his brows.

"You read the letter, right?"

"I wouldn't come here if I didn't read it"

"I see, then you also understand it, right? That you don't have any other

option left."

"....."

The contents of the letter were something like this.

It was about those members who attacked Minato yesterday's noon.

Though there were no deaths, but they had to give a lot of treatment fees and suffered financial losses.

Though not completely, but Elk was also responsible for that, and so she had to take the burden of some amount of that money. It was added to her debt.

Now that there was no way to clear the debt using legal ways, only one method was left.

The sharp eared men, had already heard about an『Adventurer in Black』killing the big serpent and judged it was Minato.

Including the fact that Minato would be rewarded enormous amount of money as reward for killing it.

Then seeing the right time after he got reward, attack him and seize all the equipments and luggage everything. The plan also included to sell him as he was a rare person with black hair and black eyes.

If it went easily, about 60% of her debt would be repaid. And if the prices of equipments and all were high then she would be able to repay more than that.

However, Elk's response was,

"Don't make me say it again and again. I'm saying I reject that offer."

".....Bitch, do you understand the meaning of your words?"

That man was somewhat more rational than others, but it was clear from his speech that his mood was getting foul.

He scowled at Elk, in his eyes was unconcealable irritation.

It was obvious that behind the words that sounded like warning had threat included.

After all, if Elk was unable to repay the debt before the deadline which was approaching, she would either be sold off to slave dealers or brothel. To a woman, there was nothing else than hell after that point.

Even more, the reward Minato would get would be more than the money they would get by selling off Elk.

Hence, they were trying to persuade Elk by intimidating her with fear. For gaining more profits.

.....Still, her reply didn't change.

"I know what I'm saying. You will at most sell me to some slave dealer or brothel? I won't resist it after all this time."

".....What did you say?"

"I'm saying, do what you want to your heart's desire. But, now this talk is over, don't even try to lay hands on that idiot.....Minato"

She herself, didn't think that this would stop them.

Just, she wanted to something good at the last moment so that she won't regret.....and would be able to show her face straightly to the boy who saved her.

Of course, she knew that Minato wouldn't like it and she herself didn't want to jump in hell by her own will.

She just felt that if she try to live a disgraceful life, then she would stop being herself.

Choosing to live a lowly disgraceful life was too heavy a choice for her after being in contact with Minato's kindness.

If she tried to return, it was a dirty path. If she didn't return it would be either slave or prostitute.

Either return to hell or go to hell. both sides were hell for her.

In that case, while her mind was cooling down.....she made decision.

"If I'm going to hell anyway, then it's more good to go to hell by my own will while carrying all the sins. There would be not even one person who would feel sorry for me."

".....You're an idiot. You going to ruin your life by rejecting the offer in front of you? Rethink about it, even by saying good things, it won't give prof....."

"You're right, nobody will gain profit, but neither will anyone suffer loss."

"You can't complain about anything in hell, still going with your choice?"

"Bake me, boil me, have fun.It is a befitting end for garbage like me. Even if you people are garbage like me, but I won't let you get any profit."

"Bitch....."

The surrounding men scowled at Elk, who was speaking in a masochism way, with eyes filled with hatred.

Right now from their standpoints it was, Elk who was rejecting their offer for some hypocrite feelings.

However, in front of those stares, Elk showed a refreshed face giving off the feeling that what she had done was only natural.

Most probably, even if they attacked her or tore her clothes apart and be violent she won't resist at all. But she definitely won't regret, neither make any complaints.

The leader man who was speaking till before after knowing Elk had no intention of withdrawing, opened his mouth,

".....I got it, I'll give you what you want you bitch. I will sell you to the place which gives more profit. I won't hear any complaints from you now."

Even after hearing the words similar to death sentence, Elk's expression didn't change.

On the contrary, she faintly smiled.

As if saying, that she was finally going to be free of guilt.

It was the face of Martyr being dragged by scaffold.

However,

But her heroic determination was short-lived and would be trampled underfoot.

"We will take care of that Minato brat, after we take care of you."

".....!?"

Elk made a surprised face after she understood the meaning of the words.

In front of her, was the leader man who had the vulgarest smile of the day fixed on his face.

"What? Did you think he would be saved if you sacrificed yourself?"

"You didn't say it!? He is not in any way involved in my debts! Why..... Just why are you people laying your hands on him even after I say that I'm going to take all responsibility....."

"You really are an idiot. We are only taking that brat on our own accord, it has no relation to you. We are『Moneylender』and『Slave dealer』and those others are『Kidnappers』. They do their work. You never know which person they will attack and when, right?"

On those words, the surrounding men also laughed.

While making a fool of Elk who showed her useless determination and feelings.

The people from which Elk took money were without a doubt, these men, who were affiliated with the famous major merchant's association

this city.

That association itself was regarded as a good and legal one, with no relation to illegal things.They do deal with slaves and many other commodities, but it was in the regions of law.

The the preparators, the『Kidnappers』were only an outlaw group. They were evil people who would get death sentence the moment they were captured.

They were only related to the dark side of association, in front they both were completely unrelated.

This was the way『To make money without any problems』and therefore both parties were making use of each other nothing more. Therefore, they could attack the association anytime.

It was only the truth. One cannot expect outlaws to have morals or anything like that.

Realizing that, Elk clenched her fists in anger and started trembling. She was angry towards herself that she couldn't see their true intentions and her face was getting red from anger.

"Do you get it now, Elk? You foolish woman, it still ends like this. Honest people are seen as fool.....it would've been better if you choose the easier way, right? Ah, it's already too late?"

"You people.....!!"

Ironically, the words she had said in the noon were turning in reality.

While feeling that in the corner of her mind, her whole mind was already under control of fury and despair.

So much fury, that she didn't realise that she was almost going to cry.

"Don't go ahead and try to end everything while acting cool for self-satisfaction, it's creepy. You're just a shitty woman who can live while pushing problems on the surrounding people! That black guy is also pitiable, if he hadn't met you, it wouldn't have turned into th....."

"Noisy! Shut up! Worst!"

"I'll say it. We are going to capture that guy with a really good plan. After all, I have people of Rank D and C, they are completely different from people from yesterday. They are right now standing on guard, they won't let anyone esc....."

At that moment,

"I see, so those people were D and C? No wonder, it was really easy"

""!!?""

In the wastelands with bloodthirsty atmosphere, resounded a voice with no feeling of tension.

Being surprised, the men's and Elk's line of sight changed to the place from where the voice came.

At that place,

There was a silhouette in complete back with the sunset as its background

It wasn't because of backlighting from sun, but in reality the silhouette had black clothes, scarf, gauntlets, shin guards and finally hair and eyes.

"They were looking at me from afar and it was getting irritating, so I cleaned them up? Don't be stingy and use 10 people. It would've been better if you used 100 people."

"B-bastard.....!"

"Minato.....?"

The child-faced boy smiled sweetly with a face and voice having no tension at all.

His line of sight falls on the girl surrounded by men who was about to cry.....but actually didn't betray the boy's faith.

And

There was no one who knew that the boy was getting angered behind his smile.

Chapter 17 – The Martial Exhibition Meet at Dusk Part 1

The inn I was staying at『Bermuda』was an inn along with an adjacent bar and dining hall made. One can at anytime eat food. If you show the key for room, then you would get discount.

But, if I go at such a place in this situation -while a rumour of an『Adventurer in Black』is spreading-it would definitely get troublesome.

Well I'm doing this work for living so I need to be ready for these things.....but I won't like it to deal it with it from today only.

I needed to prepare my heart, but there were also other reasons too.

And so, when I thought about something to deal with it, I decided to let Tanya-chan bring some amount of food to my room.

Originally, they don't do this sort of service, because of patterns like going to the rooms for delivering food and then remaining there.

In my case, it was due to trust.

Along with gratitude, I ordered the food while giving the tip to Tanya-chan. It was at the time I was about to.....return to my room after ordering.

I saw Elk leaving the inn and was looking like she had made some sort of strong determination but was also looking like she was sad.

—And so,

I felt a bad premonition, so I tailed Elk,

along the way, I cleaned up the people who were on the lookout around the inn.

In front of me was Elk with her eyes opened wide which seemed to spill tear at any time and many men who seemed ill-bred standing as if surrounding her.

I was hearing and seeing the talk, though not from the start, so I more or less knew about the situation.

And I was also able to guess that these guys were not so admirable to accept the sacrifice of someone and not lay hand on the other person.

I knew that due to the experience of thief subjugation I practiced with mom.

Even so, the reason I didn't do anything till now was to confirm Elk's determination.

How should I put it, while the talk was going on a feeling like ambition or something that said to not interfere was being leaked out of her.

As if it was saying to not go back down no matter what anyone said.

From her seriousness revealing eyes, it was clear that she wasn't speaking a single lie. The thieves after listening to her decision from the start showed their vulgar side.

I couldn't bear to watch it anymore, so I trespassed in their territory.

I jumped from the building, kicking the wall of building one last time I increased my distance in air.

Just like I had wanted, I landed right besides Elk.

".....Thank you for hard work, Elk. It was really troublesome, right?"

".....You....."

Seeing me in front of her, Elk was surprised and for some reason, her eyes had a sign of relief hidden.

Was she expectation the talk to go like this.....no she wasn't. Because Elk completely lost her determination just some minutes before.

Then maybe she was thinking『*Sigh* This can do almost anything, eh』 while seeing me in front of her eyes. I'm grateful that you can understand it.

But well, her mind was still in chaos.

Even before I could think about what to say to her, the leader like man whom Elk was talking to, spoke.

"Hey, you actually did come here. Really.....I was thinking of snatching everything from you along with the rewards from the snake."

The man said as such in a not amusing tone. I don't know his name.

"It's you right, who beat all the kidnappers yesterday after being deceived by Elk and.....the adventurer in black who killed a snake-like amazing monster today? Thanks to you we suffered great losses, what are you gonna do about it?"

Elk with a start trembled maybe because of feelings of guilt and uneasiness after she heard the words『After being deceived by Elk』. Anyhow, I patted her shoulder and calmed her down saying that I didn't mind it.

Well, I didn't like someone saying shit to me, so I replied back.

"Thank you for telling me what you know. I don't even want to sympathy you or guess your true intentions, just shut your shitty mouth and get out of here you lower-than-sewer-rat scumbags."

As if as expected, the moment I said it, irritation and bloodlust swelled up within my surroundings.

It won't overpower me but still it leaves the unpleasant feeling.

The face of Leader hadn't changed much, but a vein propped on his forehead.

"Hmph, if she is a hypocritical idiot, then you too are an idiot to follow her. Can't you see the situation you in?"

"The ugly faces that I don't want to see are lined up. Is this for making me nauseated?"

".....It wasn't good for you to say that.....Oi, come out you people!"

Here it comes, the cliché historical drama villain lines saying『Come out Come out!』

From inside the shadows came out several number of people. Just how were these many hiding?

One-two-three..... 40 people in total, huh?

Well, I already knew about them.

Elk's face turned pale because she didn't knew about it, due to the man speaking at first as if looking down saying 'Serves you right' I decided to calm down Elk later.

"I know you are more powerful than normal people, so I have already made preparations.In truth, I was going to attack you after you had taken the reward."

"Wow, you're unexpectedly prepared? They are all prepared from before."

"I had them come here because there was a possibility that, that bitch would betray. If she did such a thing, then the business is doomed, you know."

I see, so he had already anticipated Elk betraying and bringing me here to beat them all. So it looks like he has a brain.

"Don't even think about foolish things like resisting? People here are not all of them but still there are people of Rank C and D. If you try to resist then it won't just end up with small injuries."

"Geez, you have gathered quite a lot in just 1 day."

We have the『Malras Association』behind us, it's a easy job to gather outlaws. From what I have heard, it seems like you won luckily against that『Snake』, so you can't win against these many numbers.

.....I don't know what that Mal something is, but looks like these guys got some really different information from somewhere. I understood it from the phrase he said.

Looks like the rumour is about me defeating the snake using the walls

and ceiling and floor of the labyrinth which had gotten soft due to earthquakes.

I have a delicate and frail looking body(am told by everyone), just from where did that complementary rumours start from? Well, it's convenient for me, saves me the trouble.

Apart from that,

on the face of man was a really creepy and evil smile affixed as if believing he would win with the numbers.

.....*Sigh*, just why are all villains like these.

I don't want to hear his voice and don't want to see his face too anymore.

At that instant,

I sensed the magical power rising from 7 o'clock behind me -It is the sign of magic starting to activate-and threw Elk away from myself.

The moment, the bewildered Elk landed on her back,

SFX: Booom,

The sound of explosion resounded.

A fireball came flying at me from somewhere and hit me.

"Minato!?"

".....!? Oi, who was it, who fired something like that all of a sudden!"

"Isn't a little fine. I just gave my thanks for beating my friends yesterday?"

"Dimwit! I told you we will sell him too! He has a good face too, if he got a burn or something, then the price will fall down, bastard!"

"Ah, Don't worry about. It won't work on me"

""""!!?""""

Everyone present at that place froze after they heard the voice which came from the fire.

Immediately following,

A fire erupts from my body which was more powerful than the power of the fireball magic. I show myself with no injuries at all to everyone.

.....If they told me that my appearance itself was abnormal, I can't actually refute to it.

I didn't know what sort of magic was the current『Fire Ball (Temporary)』 for, but it didn't vanish even after exploding. So I just used my fire magic to vanish it.

Just like how I did at the time with big serpent from water and light. This time I used the fire magic and covered my body to cancel to the fire surrounding my body.

As expected, many thieves stepped back upon seeing my unhurt body, but Elk who had already seen my outrageousness in the labyrinth wasn't that much surprised.

".....*Sigh* It was foolish of me to even worry about you....."

.....on the contrary she was amazed? No, she was looking at me as if it was natural? Why?

I didn't thought much about it at that time.

Aside from that, I finally understand now.

The leader only seems rational here. Other will most probably try to capture us as soon as we try to do something. They really are irritated a lot.

They were irritated due to Elk's attitude from before and my words also added oil to the fire.

But well, if they are agitated, it makes the work more easier for me.

"Elk come on"

"Eh? Ah, Y,Yeah....."

I held out my hand to the fallen Elk. After helping her stand up, I poured magic in my hand without leaving her hand.

While the time Elk was having a『?』floating above her head,

"Elk, I want you to do something, or rather, I want you to pay attention to something, can you understand?"

"? Err, it's about you, so.....maybe running from here?"

"Wrong. I can't think of Elk escaping successfully from these many people."

".....You say it quite bluntly. Well, you're right. Then, maybe, you want me to hide somewhere that I don't be a hindrance? So that I don't become a hostage"

"Close enough but wrong. Even if you try to hide, with this many people some will definitely follow you."

“Then, what should I do.....”

Immediately after that,

The magic power poured in my hand was transmitted to Elk, her body was soon clad in phosphorescence like a firefly.

At the same time, Elk’s eyes widened with surprise, most probably because she must have felt her body weight getting really low.

In truth, she not only became light but also had her offensive power and defensive power increased.

After all, I used my hand as an intermediary to transmit『Elemental Blood』in her body.

This『Other Person Enhancement』doesn’t actually administer magic in the blood vessels, but just works like a normal enhancement magic to increase physical strength.

But, it was more powerful than any normal enhancement magic. This much should be enough.

It’s disadvantage was that the other person must always be in contact with me or in 10 seconds the effects will be cancelled, but I was going to fight while protecting her so it wouldn’t pose a problem.

I increased her physical abilities so she could match my speed only.

".....You want me to fight together?"

"No, it will be good enough if you just be by my side and keep on getting protected. It will be easier for me to fight then."

"Ah, Hmm. So this is for that?"

It saves me the trouble if you can understand it quickly.

Well, it would be good enough if she can match my pace.

"Elk, do you know how to dance?"

"I don't know something elegant like that"

"I see. I also don't know"

"Then why did you ask it!?"

"No, just if you knew how to dance then you would have matched my pace on your own. It was in the end a short-lived hope.*sigh*"

"Don't say it like I'm not good!"

"Yes, yes. Well then, you don't seem nervous anymore. Let's start?"

"Eh.....You planned it out?"

"Sorry, Sorry. But it did help you calm down, right?"

"Geez.....I really get tired mentally whenever I'm with you"

"It's good that you are lively right now. Here they come!"

And, surely the moment later,

I didn't knew for what reason did one of the men attacked, but I rotated my body and kicked him far away while embracing Elk tightly.

The curtains to a bloody fight opened up near the wastelands on the outskirts of city at dusk.

☆☆☆

Chapter 17 Part 2

From the conclusion, it would have been better to say that the fight was one-sided only.

Let it be 10 or 40 of them, bluntly speaking, it didn't make much difference to me. Just the time taken to break them would increase.

I even had completed the training for fighting while protecting someone when I went to subjugate thieves under the supervision of mom.

The contents were simple.

I had to fight against several thieves while protecting the powerless girl.....acting mom.

If, I had made a mistake and let an attack land on her, then she would've kicked and killed that thief hard. I would pass if the number of people taken down by mom were 0.....I had thought of doing that, but,

Somewhere along the way, it was discovered that mom was more dangerous than me and then nobody even came near us.Well, it happens.

The reason it still ended up as 0 person getting killed by mom was because even if others attack were to hit mom it won't even itch due to

her enhanced body and defence power.

I tried to protect Elk using that experience, but it turned out to be more easy than what I had imagined.

Well the fighting experience of the men was low, but what helped me more was that Elk kept up with my pace by herself.

Whenever I gave a roundhouse and rotated my body for it, she moved to the place with no enemies.

She was slipping through attacks, without losing much power and was able to keep up with me.

Sometimes, she sensed the enemies approaching from my back, she would kick them, cut at them and break their bones. This might be little rude, but it did surprise me.

No, well her body had been enhanced, but still it was really a surprise to see her refined movements.

Her moves were sharp and refined along and it seemed like her situation assessment powers are really good.

Maybe, she has a talent in this sort of fighting style.....?

Anyhow, she fought like that.....to not narrow her aim, she jumped, rolled on ground, rotated, she showed flashy but precise movements and

fought with me.

Though it might be singing our own praises, but I still think that our fighting style was vivid and elegant dancing fighting style? maybe.

More briefly, it was like the SFX effects going along with the moves of a Hero like character.

Still with all this and my reviews on this, there were unnecessary movements compared to when normally fighting.

Thanks to the low experience of the men, it helped the on-the-spot-made fighting style, anyhow, all right in the end.

At that pace, the number of people around us started to go down gradually.

They came at us even after seeing the scene of their other allies being mowed down, but in the end they too joined their friends group.

The wastelands which was filled with the bellows of thieves with bad countenance started to quiet down.

There was no longer anyone with a calm and composed posture, all of their faces turned pale seeing the scene of their friends falling down due to flashy and menacing Taijutsu.....

"Owaa!?"

"Nh, looks like it is impossible to run on walls?"

"If you know it, then don't do it!"

I ran on the wall of the ruined buildings for some reason that I forgot while I dodged the attacks.

But, it really was too much. To cover it up, we slid with our hands joined and thanks to that we were able to fight without twisting our hands.

[ET: Even I couldn't get the meaning of the sentence.]

[TL Notes: Mc is using a sort of Tai Chi, using the opponent palm with his palm to create a slide effect!. or something like that]

And while time I was kicking a person in front of me, one person from behind attacked me. I gave him an elbow blow and finished him with a roundhouse kick.

Ah, these guys have fighting experience. No, just surrounding us from both sides.

".....It seems like, strangely, my movements have gotten better.....I don't know exactly why. It's my first time feeling this"

"? Well, I am making it possible, though"

"No, not that. Well, my physical abilities have increased, but for some

reason I can see from where the attacks are coming, more than anything.....I can somehow know how you are going to move."

".....Eh? Elk too?"

"Eh?"

Well, it's the same for me.

For some time, I can somehow know how Elk is going to move even if I don't look at her.

That's why I'm leaving the attack and evasion to Elk and I only follow-up when it's a dangerous time. While keeping in mind that our hands remain joined.

Now that I think about it, Elk.....is fighting as equals to the people of same or higher rank. It seems strange somehow.

And even though without seeing her, I was able to assess her movements. Just what is this situation.....?

"Maybe, we both are compatible?"

"We are quite a dangerous combination then.....whoops!"

One more person went down by Elk's knife while evading the person's

attack.

Intentionally or not, but we hadn't hit any vitals. There were no dead till now.

But, in case of Elk, she was using knife, therefore there were some who were in really bad state and will die if not treated.

I was also holding back, so I hadn't killed anyone, but I had been moving to protect Elk, so I had been using more power than ever I had against human beings.

Most probably, there were some with major fractures.....well, not like I cared.

.....While I was thinking that, even before I knew it,

"Ah, looks like it will be over soon, what you gonna do? Err, Leader-san?"

All had been beaten up badly and now only the leader man was left. Quite cliché.

He had lost his calm and composed posture, his face had turned pale, it looked like he would fall down by himself.

".....! Impossible.....I had dozens of men gathered....."

"A cliché line you said there. Err, Elk what should we do at this point? Will it be good to just take the promissory note, tear it off and throw it?"

"You're right, but you can't tear and throw it. It is an official document after all. Along with that truth, we just need to report to guard about their and『Malras Association』's relation with kidnapper, everything will be over then.as for testimony, I will do it."

The moment Elk said so, the man's face paled further.

It seemed like, the things Elk said will be dangerous for them.

"I was a fool to think everything will be over by my sacrifice. If were going to do something, then it should be done thoroughly. I thought it would be bad if the association had links in the dark areas.....from that complexion, it seems like I'm not wrong."

"Will it be okay with your testimony only?"

"If it is less, then here are some lying on ground for helping. They're not the people who are loyal to their employer."

Near our foots were, the fainted and near-dying mixed group of kidnappers and money lenders *etc.*

Surely they seemed like fools who were hired with money. They always knew that they would get punishment sometime and so tried to take even 1 more person with them. Their employer surely wouldn't try to save them intentionally.

“Eh, Elk?! If you tried it then you will to be captured for same crime! If we tell anyone about you supporting the kidnappers, you’ll be expelled from guild and either sent to jail or sold off as a criminal slave.....”

“Just like I wanted. I already had the determination to go for a hell tour. And, now that I can take you people too, I will happily give my testimony or anything.”

“W,Wait! Don’t be rash, let’s discuss first.....T,That’s right! You want this right!”

The man took out a single paper from his bosom.

Elk’s eyes widened after seeing it. I tried to see what it was that caused Elk to be surprised, it was the.....『Promissory Note』?

Moreover, in the Name column was『Elk Caucus』written. Is this of Elk’s debt?

The man took out a seal-like object from the same bag, and pressed it against the promissory note.

Upon looking at it,

“.....What is this『Invalid』thing?”(Minato)

“! By any chance, is this the invalid seal used at the time of cancelling a

contract!?”(Elk)

“T,That’s right! W,With this Elk, you’re debt is now as if it didn’t exist! It’s good now, right? Please, don’t make it more hard for me!”

Err, can someone explain?

“.....It can cancel a commercial contract upon the agreement of both parties, or for some major reason from one party. The invalid seal is one way of many methods to cancel a contract.”

“It sounds like a troublesome and complicated talk, in simple words, that seal cleared Elk’s debts?”

“Well, in simple words”

According to Elk, in the contents of contract, there was a part saying that the creditors (them) can at anytime cancel the contract without the debtor’s (Elk) consent.

Most probably, they had made such point for some evil business, but this time they were using it to clear the debt.

That seal was something that only top echelons of the association carried, and the man always has roamed here and there while carrying it. This time, the seal actually had a meaning unlike the evil-schemed sealing.

In other words, though there were some impurities in the deal, but Elk's debt at that moment was completely cleared.

Elk confirmed it with a nod.

It seemed like she had done a lot of studying for these things, therefore, it was fine to leave it to her.

The man pleaded to us while groveling miserably to let him go, now that everything was fine.

I sent a glance to Elk asking what to do, came back was a glance only.

.....Yeah, got it.

I understood her intentions with just that much.

".....Don't try to come near me ever, no rather, don't even be where I would be"

"Is that she says"

"Eh.....! Thank ya! You really saved me!"

We both turned back, not giving even a glance even after hearing a crying voice.

Of course, we took the promissory note. If we had that, then Elk was a free woman.

Even if someone said something later, she would be able to deal with it. It seemed like the forgery of both promissory note and seal was impossible.

And, suddenly I felt the man standing behind us silently and sighing with relief.

"You kids are.....just easy to fool!!"

"Don't steal my line"

SFX: ———Bakii

"GuGoo!?"

The man who attacked at us from behind armed with a knife.....danced in air, after getting hit by my electrified roundhouse kick.

And he disappeared inside the window of the ruined building, on which I tried to run some time before.

Like hell.....I will let him go. If I leave you, then Elk would be fine, but other people would cry in her place in future.

We acted a bit and showed him that we had our guards down while I was getting prepared to strike with fists when he attacked.(It was Kick though)

The probability of him fainting down was.....not like I cared and not like I even looked.

At the very least, I kicked him with quite a lot of power and voltage. So he won't be able to move for a long time with his broken and burned muscles. It might be his most serious injury in his entire lifetime.

With this everything was over.

"And, What are you going to do, Elk?"

".....Just like I said. I will report each and every work they had done. Even if I get accused due to it.That will be my decision."

"You're.....serious about it"

"Yeah. Sorry Minato, I got you involved in my troubles.....so till the end, I was being protected by you."

"I'm not worrying about it at all. I myself, personally like Elk. It was quite fun to roam in the labyrinth and make fuss while rampaging inside there."

"It was only you who made fuss and went on a rampage!"

Elk said as she looked at the promissory note in her hands.

Right now it was a scrap of paper with no restriction ability. But it still could be used a piece of evidence.

It was a paper that would be an evidence which would condemn her to jail, but Elk still looked at it as a precious item which she got back.

.....She wouldn't change her decision, no matter what I say.

"It's unfortunate—- I was thinking of making a pair with Elk"

I had heard from mom.

The occupation called adventurers not only fought against monsters and demons but also against fellow humans.

Let it be going in Danger Area or going on a journey, an adventurer would sooner or later definitely need a friend who would accompany him/her.

It was not difficult to find a person to accompany yourself with for one or two times, but it was difficult to find a person who would, to the last end, accompany you.

That was true, after all it was impossible to understand someone else's mind 100%.

For that reason, I seriously wanted Elk.

Surely there weren't many people who didn't run from their sins but bear them and lived while repenting for them.

".....Stop jesting. You will sooner or later meet more better people than me.It's better if you don't get involved with a girl like me ever again."

She revealed a transient pretty smile.

Pathetic of me, I couldn't find any words to return.

"Well, I will be able to take many of the evil people with me in this way. But, it is regrettable that even then I wouldn't be able to deal a blow to Malras Association."

"What is that『Malras Association』? It sounds like a big company or something of sort"

"Yeah, you don't know about it. It's is the most influential trading association here, even within the country it is one of the leading associations. Well, I don't know if they are involved in this case or not. The only thing I can do is, try to take as more evil people with me and pray that someone like me is not born again in this city....."

"Ara, in that case you don't have to worry? It will be over soon enough after all."(???)

""!!?""

Suddenly a new voice resounded. Eh, What!?

Instinctively, Elk and I looked the place where the voice came from.

There a single girl was standing.

She had cream-colored long hair which run down till her waist.

Her looks are rather childish, it can be said『Cute』instead of『Beautiful』. Her age was more than that of me and Elk. Somewhere around the twenties.

She was wearing a spacious and wavy kimono like cloth and a sandal which closely resembled the japanese sandals. It is like the clothes of someone who half-assedly tried to make western-clothes in japanese styled clothes, somewhere along the lines.

The thing which was more impactful, was.....the cream-colored bouncy『Ears』.

Cat Ears? no, they seem more like.....fox?

When I look carefully at her, I found a fox tail growing from her waist. Beast person??

I couldn't feel any bloodlust from that gentle-faced person. I could only see her looking at us while she grinned.

But.....I couldn't be careless.

After all, I was not able to sense her when she came near us. Even with my hearing.

.....Clearly, she ain't any ordinary person.

"Yeah, Yeah. Remain right there. You don't have to be on guard that much, I'm not thinking about any dangerous thing"

Just why is she speaking in Kansai Dialect? What is wrong with this world?

That person, grinned even while knowing we were sending eyes filled with carefulness and guard.

"Ah, sorry. I came out and didn't even introduce myself. I'm Noel Co Malras. I'm the manager of that Malras Association you guys were talking about just before. Nice to meet you♪"

She introduced herself, as if natural.

Chapter 18 – The Smiling Fox and Male Gender Part 1

At a brisk pace,

The beautiful girl in Japanese-like clothes started walking without showing any sign of fear or anything in the situation, with heaps of bodies lying on ground.

The girl who introduced herself as one of the representative of『Malras Association』, walked towards the ruined building in which I threw the leader man, she took a peek inside from the window, and put her hand inside,

“Heave-ho”

Along with an encouraging yell, she pulled out the man with one hand, while holding him by collar as if he were a cat or some pet.

The girl threw the man on the ground roughly without paying attention to us who were shocked at her unexpected physical strength, she crouched besides him and started slapping the man’s face repeatedly.

“Hey, wake up already. If you don’t wake up till I count 10, then have fun with your eternal rest.”

“Nh, Gu.....W.....What.....!!? O, O, Okami-san!?”

Okami-san, you say.

This person gives of the feeling of Japan at many points. Let it be her Kansai Dialect or clothes, just what is wrong with this word, fricking made up of mixture of Japan and Europe.

Incidentally, the man who had regained his consciousness started trembling from fear the moment 『Okami-san』entered his vision.

The smile of that fox-eared okami-san was so good that a person will go head over heels for her. However, it was quite a strange picture to see the man being frightened by it, it seemed like he would die.

She surely said a dangerous sentence as if normal, just now.

"So well then, you seem like quite beaten up, not like I care about it though. I won't let you say that you don't know the reason I am here for?"

"Ah, no, e, err, it's, it's different, Okami-san! I, I didn't do this! Err, the secretary, no I mean, subordinates did it on their own accord....."

"You're the secretary, Argh, I don't want to hear your excuses? I had been seeing everything from the time, that green-haired girl was speaking caustic words like wanting to be boiled or skinned."

From that time!?

I didn't sense her at all. I, should have even more sharpened senses than usual in my combat stance.....seriously, just what is this person!?

The secretary, man, twinkled his eyes while his face paled having lost all the blood, in this situation, having his misdeeds found out by this『Okami-san』

However, in this situation,

The man who is most likely an big-shot in『Malras Association』was getting blamed by an even more big-shot, 『Okami-san』a.k.a Noel.

Does that mean『Malras Association』was not at all related in this case?

Is it because some elated people rampaged, that a top-brass came out to investigate it?

Right now, the man who was the『main culprit』, stood in between a dilemma.

“Geez, just from where did you get the nerve to use our association’s name in this way? You don’t need to come from tomorrow? And I have called the guards, so silently go with them.Ah, you can’t even move.”

“O, Okami-san! Please wait, it’s different, I didn’t, please spare me..... Gaa!”

“You’re annoying. Go sleep”

Okami-san, hit the base of the throat of man who was wailing in an

unsightly manner, with a chop and took his consciousness.

Her actions were small, but it seemed like the attack had a lot of power in it.

The man spat out foam from his mouth and stopped moving.

The Okami-san, stood back up while sighing and faced us.

Instinctively we both took combat posture but neither rebuking us nor making an unpleasant face, she just moved towards us while grinning.

"Well the. You are Elk Caucus right?"

"Y-Yeah that's right.....?"

"I see. In that case.....I need to properly apologize to you."

Suddenly, she splendidly bowed her head towards Elk while bending at exact 90 degree angle.

"Elk-han, I'm sorry that our people created problems for you. I'm really sorry. I will prepare and complete the formal procedures later, but please forgive me for now with this much."

"Eh!? Ah, No, Err, Umm, I don't reall....."

Elk started. She was surprised seeing the unexpected actions.

Even I was also surprised. If someone suddenly apologizes properly, anyone would be.

After all, the feelings of really asking for forgiveness was being transmitted from her bowing figure. Her attitude from before took a 180 degree turn and was now serious.

Of course, there was a chance that this all was an act.....it it was, then I felt that nobody in the world, could be trusted ever again.

"U, Umm, I don't really mind it.....is something I won't say, but now that I have gotten an apology and my debt has been cleared, It's alright now."

I don't think that anyone would blame Elk for replying in panic.

"Is that so. Then I will take up your words."

Saying that, she pulled up her head up and once again faced us.

"Well then I have apologized you and gotten mercy, but it's not good to not explain the things to you. I want to explain about why I have come here, do you have time?"

According to Okami-san,

This was a scandal created by this man, misusing his power. He was also the secretary of the head director of『Malras Association』.

And he gave illegal loans at first and then to repay the loans with severe interest he asked the borrower to help in kidnapping people, to increase his own profits.

The upper echelons like Okami-san, moved at once to deal with this case because they had already gotten enough evidence due to internal inspection they had done.

The slave dealers and kidnappers who were related in the black market trading routes along with this man-I didn't know his names till the end. Not like I cared-were in middle of being arrested by the guards.

Meanwhile, Okami-san headed to this place because the main culprit was here, but en route, she found me heading here too.

It was after I had cleaned up the people patrolling near the inn and was following Elk.

And the place I was headed to was same, so she thought what if and her guess hit the mark. She watched the scene play from when Elk showed her determination to the people.

After that, she remained on the sidelines.

She only came out after I cut right in, fought along with Elk and annihilated everyone.

She seemed to have thought of helping us if it became dangerous, but seeing us safely kicking their asses, she decided to be on the sidelines. She's quite wicked.

And so, thanks to our hard work of kicking their asses, this case has been solved without any help from the person who should have done it, Okami-san.

"In truth, I needed to complete many procedures regarding the debt money of Elk-han. But, thanks to this guy doing most of work, now only little tweaks are needed."

Okami-san said as such while looking at the promissory note with the『Invalid Stamp』pressed on it.

In other words, the stamp had worked its wonders by cancelling the contract. Now Elk didn't even need to repay the principal amount too.

Okami-san too was accepting the matter. All is well if it ends well.

Incidentally, this, criminal group, would be bearing the responsibility to repay the money for the damages they have caused.

"But still, I need to complete the left paperworks, can you come to the association on some another day?"

"Yeah, I will.....Umm, there's one thing, I am concerned about?"

Elk timidly raised her head up.

She opens her mouth even more timidly, as though she were afraid to hear the answer.

"Err.....I think there are other people who had also helped the kidnappers due to being deceived.....what will you do about them?"

I see. This matter seriously is one thing you would want to hear, but also not hear.

The people who did the work, were without a doubt『Victim』, but they were without a doubt『Perpetrator』too. They just couldn't be left, without getting punishment.

Of course, Elk wouldn't had run no matter the conclusion, she had made her decision, but.....it was not like she was not anxious.

Okami-san looked Elk, shivering, and made an expression that said she understood her.

"As for that, the victims all were different, right? There were some who did it unwillingly and some did it in high spirits. Of course, the latter will be given severe punishment, but even if the former did it unwillingly, the crime is a crime, we can't just release that person."

"I see.....understood, would it be good that I show my face at guards

headquarters, instead of the association?"

Elk's face cramped for a second, but she recovered in a bit, and declared that she would surrender at the Guards Headquarters-something like police?- instead of going to the association.

She had made her decision from the start, so she was able to even speak this.

But, Okami-san interrupted her, by saying『That is right, but?』in between

"In your case, it is a little complicated."

"? Complicated?"

"That's right. I had heard from the guy who was managing the kidnappers after beating him up, Elk-han you have helped them only 1 time, right ? And that too ended up as failure? Because of that, there is no stolen loot which can be used as evidence, it will be difficult for making a case for prosecution."

""Eh?""

"That's why, even if you surrender, they won't hear you, they already have many cases to deal with which『have』evidences. Well, you can give the testimony, though it will bring blame on you"

Okami-san stopped speaking at『But, of course』and glanced at me,

“If the『Victim』themselves give the testimony, then it will be different?”

“I don’t know what you talking about”(Minato)

“Looks like it?”(Noel)

“.....You.....”(Elk)

At that moment, a method of proving Elk to be innocent, was made.

“Well, even if Minato-han gave the testimony, there is no evidence to relate it to, furthermore, he even flipped tables over them at their own game. At most, you would get a lecture and have to pay a fine. Even so, if you want to give the testimony, then please come during the time of completing the paperwork.”

“.....Will do. I want to complete all things I have to do.”

“Yes. Fufu, you’re quite a honest and serious person, you don’t see them now.”

“You’re thinking too much of me. I’m just a cheapskate, who can’t even do self-management.”

Okami-san laughed as if she was happy, while Elk was showing an

expression as if she were exhausted. Within the wastelands, laugh and sigh resounded.

Later on, we will be introduced to Okami-san's association, complete the paperwork and go to the guards for giving testimony. -Elk seemed like she was 100% going to say that she helped the kidnappers, but the probability of ignoring her rant is high-Anyhow, like that, we talked about what to do.

She said, the faster the better it would be, so she would send a cart/wagon to『Bermuda』tomorrow.

At the moment, I thought that it was getting late for dinner, and we should return,

"Ah, please wait, Minato-han. I also have business with you too."

"Eh, With me? Err, is it related to this case?"

"No, no, it's a little personal thing? Ah, but, I can't ask it here.....can you tomorrow along with Elk-han?"

"? Well, I don't mind"

[ET: Minato spoke this in Kansai Dialect]

"Minato you're getting infected by that"

Oops, she's right. Strange Phenomenon. It's not like I am a person from

Kansai area.

Anyhow, with that our conversation with Okami-san a.k.a Noel-san met its end.

Noel-san left just like the way she came, she looked towards us once again while going and grinned.

Well, then let's go eat dinner.

.....Even so,

Who is that, Okami-san? It feels like I have seen her somewhere before too.....?

No, I just left the home yesterday, but still she gives of a feeling like she's not a stranger.....? How should I say, it feels similar to something.

I haven't seen her, but it doesn't feel like I have met her for first time today.....it's quite strange to say it myself, but Just WHAT THE HELL IS THAT FEELING!?

.....Well, whatever.



Chapter 18 Part 2

A few hours later,

After returning to inn, I part with Elk, and return to my room.

It was the time adventurers started assemble for drinking, so I quickly, returned to my room and didn't leave. If I did, it will be really troublesome.

After that, I ate the brought food, and relaxed comfortably.

Most probably Elk would also be feeling like so. Today many things happened.

Normally, adventurers always check their『Equipment』after returning to inn.

They repair the damaged protective armaments, torn clothes, dulled weapon, and prepare for next adventure.

I went in dungeon today and yesterday, furthermore I fought quite flashily today, the state of my equipments is,

Clothes: Not even a speck of dust.

Scarf: Same as above.

Black Belt: Same as above.

Gauntlets and Shin Guards: Not even a scratch.

There wasn't any need for repairs. At the very least, not with fights like yesterday or today.

No, I did know it, but just like it was in letter, this is great equipment.

Yeah, well, it is good for no trouble?

What was this talk about, it was all about, the second half of the Japanese Dictionary like letter which I read while leaving my『Home』.

The letter, had a little more continuation about these equipments.

First, the black clothes(have 2 of them).

At a glance they were normal clothes, but they were not normal clothes.

This is incredibly tough. Even if it was cut by blade, thrown in fire, it won't even get a single scratch. Frankly, it was more reliable than a armor of steel. It was light too.

In addition to that, it even had resistance towards magic.

Due to that, even if my body was on fire from the use of『Magic Arts』it won't burn, furthermore I won't need to wash them if the dirt will get burned by the flames.

.....Seriously, from what is this thing made from?

Next, jet-black scarf. The toughness, magic resistance, or 'cleaning' magic was the same as clothes.

In addition to that, this scarf can transform.

In the first place this scarf, was an『Overcoat』. The one I wore at first.

There was no need for it neither the weather was bad, and so, I had changed it into a stylish『Scarf』.

Furthermore, it could be transformed into mantle or picnic sheet, and many various things, or so it was written in the letter. I have yet to try it.

And, the gauntlets and shin guards.

They were made from『Joker Metal』, not sure, but these were made from not-so-normal metal, anyhow they were strong. Tough and sturdy.

And, the『Magic Endurance』and『Magical Conductivity』were also quite high.

This wouldn't break even after taking enemies attacks, or even if my magical power were too much powerful. For using『Magic Arts』, this equipment was the best.

Most probably, mom didn't gave me a normal beginner adventurer's equipments for this reason. A normal steel, wouldn't be able to endure the burden caused by my magical power.

And at last, was the mom's hand-made black belt. This was the most awesome of all.

Just like clothes, it too had special ability, the awesome thing about the black belt, was, it too had 『Storage Ability』like the『Hyperspace Backpack』.

Of course, it couldn't store many items like the backpack, but instead of it, it had a convenient thing that backpack lacked.

I can take out and store the item just by imagining it.

That's why, I had stored Knife for tearing raw materials, pocket changes, things like that, on the time of taking them out, I only need to imagine. Ultra Convenient.

And, there was 1 more awesome thing about this belt.

I came store and take out things into/from it even if I'm wearing the

equipment.

As to what it exactly is.....Ah, let me demonstrate.

I, after checking the gauntlets and shin guards, wore them on my leg and hands.

And, imagined for it to be『Stored』inside the black belt.

In an instant,

The gauntlets and shin guards got『Stored』inside.....the black belt.

And, once again, this time imagined『Come out』

In an instant, the gauntlets and shin guards come out in『Equipped』state.

In other words, wearing the clothes and equipments from before『Storing』will completely remove the equipping of them after taking them out, an ultra useful tool.

Depending on the use, this is a super hero belt.....it tickled my child heart.

Well, that's how it was,

Due to the not-normal equipments, it doesn't seem like the need for maintenance will come any time soon.

Because I had free time, this time , I open up 1 of the farewell gift from mom,『Necromicon』.

In this many magical rites, knowledge related to them and many other things were written down it, an complicated magical book. Moreover, this in itself is an magic item.

This book which was thought to reach many hundred pages, would make people get cold feet before reading through its thickness and complicated words. But, I don't think there would be any harm in learning the knowledge written, so I try to read little by little. I skipped over the the things I didn't understand, and only read the things I could understand.

I spent some time like that, and the night came.

I already got bored of Necromicon. Though I have only read 20 pages yet.

That being the case, I entered the bath just a while ago.

It had been divided in men and women baths, during the working hours anyone can enter.

The time bar is crowded, the bath is not crowded, this information from Tanya-chan really did help me. I left the bath after relaxing for some

minutes, as it was in a chartered state. No, it's was not like I took the bath in hurry, I always take bath for short time. Since the previous life.

.....Now then, I seriously have nothing else to do.

I don't want to read Necromicon today at all, and don't even have something else to kill time.

Can't be helped, I should sleep.

I have felt to stay up the whole night, but in this world without electricity, I can't do anything in the night too. Yeah, I 've got nothing to do.

After drying up the little wet hair with the magic of『Fire』and『Water』, I entered the bed.

And, after blowing out the candle light, I finally.....

.....finally.....

.....finally.....

.....Not good, I really can't sleep.

I opened my closed eyes. My eyelids were no in the least heavy. I didn't want to sleep.

I intuitively knew it. I couldn't sleep like that. I won't be able to sleep.

There was no light within the dark room with the candlelight out, the only little light is the moonlight coming in from the gaps of curtain.

But, with my nocturnal animal like eyes, I can look easily with just that much.

It did had the feeling of『Darkness』, but walking without bumping into things and tables and all, is a piece of cake.

.....but, it ain't damn relevant.

I know the reason I can't sleep. I know it completely.

I just.....don't want to accept it, I don't want to deal with it.

That's why I tried to divert my attention from it.....by dinner, equipment checking, bath, Necromicon, but it was all useless. As expected, men are just like that.

It would be problematic to not sleep till morning, and it's not like I am not interested.

.....Can't be helped then.

".....Let's go to『Red-light district』....."



Time goes back to several hours.

After coming from the fighting with those people, I was captivated by the『change』of city while en route to inn with Elk.

They were not in morning, but at that this time, I saw many women walking here and there with charming atmosphere and alluring perfume scent drifting from them.

The women wearing those outfits felt like『Of course it's that』. I didn't need to ask Elk, their attire alone told me.

The next moment, maybe because I had a REALLY relaxed face, Elk's elbow came attacking the side of my stomach with full force as if to say "Don't make a foolish face". Thanks to that, I regained my consciousness.

But, even after becoming aware of it, there seemed to be my male part that couldn't be saved, even after that, the moment they entered my vision, I kept looking at them.

At that time, it felt like Elk who was walking besides was getting in a bad mood. Her trademark(?), the disgusted eyes were slightly awkward at that time.

No, well.....It must've been an ugly sight in her eyes for a man to chase after women of『That sort of occupation』with eyes, even while being with a girl. I'm sorry



And, just a little later,

I arrived at the inn, it was during the time I was returning to my room from reception.

The time I reached 2nd floor, I met with the husband of innkeeper-Father of Tanya-chan-, and in truth this sort of conversation started.

『Hey, Minato-kun, was it? I've heard about your great deeds』

『No, that.....Hahaha, it's nothing great. Ah, it would help me if you will not spread that rumour in public』

『Haha, that is difficult. To accompany with these kind of topics, is kind of an duty for me as an owner of bar and inn. Well, I'll try to not spread it myself.』

『Ahh-, I see. I didn't want to become someone famous.....*sigh* It's depressing』

『Oh, you're quite a strange one. The adventurers, mostly want to become famous.』

『Is that so?』

『Well of course. If you become famous, you can increase trust and degree of attention from guild, quest requester and even fellow adventurers. In that case, there would more work, and even some specifically nominated requests. Many famous teams would recruit you and you would get benefits at various shops. It will also become an connection to many places, those are weapons for emergencies, right? At the time of large-scale of exploration of savage-land areas, it becomes easier to find sponsors too.』

『Y-You're quite informed.....』

『Yeah, I was an adventurer myself before. But I was not cut out for it, so at the time of taking this inn from father, I completely left that job.』

『Ah, Is that so? I didn't knew it』

『It was around that time I met with my wife. Fufu, at that time my life was best. It felt like I was quite famous just by being an adventurer, I even went to red-light district.』

『Hahaha.....Hm? 『Red-light district』?』

『Hm? Yeah, it's near from here, it's also known as sex district. Adventurer occupation is a one in which many things pile up, for better or for worse. Male in particular. In big cities like ours where adventurers gather, there is always one or two.....you interested?』

『.....』



Immediately, the owner, made a map to red-light district and handed it to be forcibly.

After being forcibly given, maybe because my male gender was being sad, that I couldn't throw it.

I had some stimulating memories from just before it, and it was already night, so the desires fixed their roots deep in my heart tonight.

Humans are strange creatures, till the time they don't think about it nothing occurs, but once they become aware of it, it then couldn't be stopped.

This kind of things has sprouted, I think.....for the first time after that day mom assaulted me.

Probably, after that, we both recognised ourselves as real『Parent & Child』though not blood-related, which controlled everything.

Since then, mom entered her『Child raising mode』, her sexual desires towards me vanished and there wasn't a second time『of that』anymore.

I still thought mom as an attracting woman, but there wasn't any time I

saw her with eyes filled with『That sort of emotions』.

That's why, I didn't do that deed after the night I was assaulted by mom.

Though, we still had breakfast, bath, and sleep together, the physical contact was the same as before.

That me, left the western-style house, found freedom-filled lifestyle, but still that sort of desire never exploded.

Weapon shop, Item shop, Guild and Dungeon, with the thrill of this 120% Fantasy world, I didn't think about that kind of things till now.

.....Though I did not think,

Due to previous conversation and experience, that sort of sensation..... the obvious sensation of an boy in puberty both in this life and previous life, was rapidly revived.

My mind was filled with, on the level that I couldn't even sleep.

I deeply think that there should be bounds, but when it still couldn't be helped.

In that case, naturally there is a need to cancel it by doing something,

Besides there are perfect places.....just like the owner was saying, they really are present in big cities where adventurer gather.

The pleasure giving place called as.....『Red-Light District』.....

That's how it was,

Purse, get. Or rather『Stored』it into the black belt.

I didn't knew the price, but with a gold coin it must work wonders.

I took the map drawn by the owner of inn= Father of Tanya-chan.

Due to my sense of values from previous life, it felt like I was about to do something not good, but it was only a normal thing to do in this world, I persuaded myself saying that 10~20 times.

That's right, it's only a part of education of life. It's not a thing to be guilty.....well I can't say it, but right now it can't be helped.

All right, preparations OK

And, when I opened the door for leaving the room,

".....Where are you going?"

I met with Elk wearing a bathrobe (like pajama) and standing in front of

my room.

Chapter 19 – The Most Critical Point of Today

Recap.

I tried to go to Red-light district for venting out my desire, but before going I was stopped by a wall which may explode my desires. Recap Finished.

「.....Elk?」

「What?」

In front me is.....Elk standing as if she just got out of bath.

「Err.....What, are you doing?」

「Nothing in particular? Just took a bath, so I thought of coming to you for playing for some time. Where are you going?」

Wet hair, steam rising from her body. A faint scent of soap also is drifting around her.

Though she has her trademark(?) glasses.....she is not in her adventurer equipments, but in a bathrobe.

Moreover, the places around chest, is peeking out of from the gaps of robe.

To be honest.....It's poison for eyes!

In the labyrinth too, she did wear clothes with exposure for agile movements.....but in this situation I just can't ignore it.

I was about to go explode my worldly desires, so it's even more difficult to ignore.

.....It's dangerous somewhat. It's sexy.

「.....Where are you going?」

To the dumbfounded me, Elk once again asks.

「T-That's umm.....」

Calm down Me. Get the coolness back.

Elk surely.....probably doesn't has any ulterior motive, and it's only coincidence she was standing outside my door. I don't want her to look coldly at me after knowing my purpose to go there.

「Hey, just a walk, you see. I thought to breathe some outside air.」

「I see. Then I will also come. I'll change clothes so wait a bit.」

「Eh" !?"」

Unexpectedly Freakish Answer! An unintentional frank answer that is.

Wai, Just why at this timing!?

「W-Why you too? You just got out of bath, if you come then you might catch cold.」

「I'm not that weak. And, it feels good when night wind hits the hot body.」

「Eh, Ah, Yeah, I kinda want walk alone, you see.....」

「Oh, I was also thinking of walking.....you will let me walk alone at night?」

Ku, For every remark this and that.....I just can't run away from it, or rather, it feels like I am getting stuck in a very bad situation. Why?

I mean, something like, I am getting cornered by her and she knows everything.....

Suddenly Elk breathes a sigh and,

「I don't care anymore. You want to go to Red-Light District, right?」

「GoFuu!?!」

Wai, Why that!?

No, I'm definitely not confident in my acting ability, but I think I tried my best to not let her know, still she knows it!?

Was I looking at Elk with sexual aroused eyes unconsciously.....Not good, I now want to die in a ditch.

Now will Elk's special disgusted eyes come flying at me, while I was thinking that,

「Just before, you were hearing the place of Red-light District from Owner, right? i was standing just behind you and hear it.....you didn't knew I was there? It isn't like you」

「Eh!? Really!?!」

No Shit, I made a big BIG MISTAKE! Did my awareness ability got dull hearing the contents of the talk..... Just how much am I weak to that stuff!?

.....For what reason, does my my sensing ability isn't reliable at important points, let it be this time or the traffic accident in labyrinth, what the fuck is going on!?

[ET: Traffic Accident = Minato running with a speed more than of car less than a bullet train and hitting the man while turning around the

corner.]

No, besides that,

To the girl Elk, my male desires were exposed, this is an enormously embarrassing situation. I have to do something.

Thinking what should I say, I try to see her in the eyes,

and suddenly she pushed me back in the room and closed the door.
Why?

To the bewildered me, Elk speaks

「.....You don't have to go?」

「Eh?」

「I'm saying that if you want to cuddle with a girl, then isn't one standing in front of you」

「.....What!?!」

Wait!? Eh!? WTF!?

In this situation where I just couldn't understand a thing, this girl just said something absurd that so frankly.

Moreover, even Elk, maybe because of embarrassment, has her face red. That is also cute.....Shit Shit! It ain't the time to think that!

however in that time, Elk in a hurry grabs my hand and.....wait, wait! wait a bit! There is bedroom!

「.....You not satisfied with me?」

「No, not that, b-but no matter what this is just too much suddenly!? I don't see any logical connection, I don't understand why you doing this.....」

「.....It's not that much of a difficult reason」

I was taken to bedroom in a hurry.

However, there Elk.....sits on the bed and,

「Within 2 previous days, I was saved many times by you」

Abruptly, with that line, she started her story.

「At first, you saved me when I was assaulted by that pervert adventurer. If you didn't, I might have been raped. No I surely would have been.」

Ah, that traffic accident, I see.

No, that was just an coincidence, a normal reckless vehicle manslaughter.....

「That alone is normally a great debt. But, after that too, you saved me many times.」

Elk continues calmly.

「Even at the time we met the goblin's crowd in dungeon. It's normal to run if you're a party of two, but you still saved me easily.」

Yeah, debut fight(mostly of narration only).

「Today too, at the time with Mad Monkeys, Little Beasts, that big-serpent.....more than anything, the matter with those people at evening. I was saved 4 or 5 times within these 2 days by you.」

No well, aside from the big-scale flashy work, I just did what was needed to be done.....Isn't it natural to save your partner in your team?

「.....On top of that, the work I did yesterday.....repaying debt with evil, you even forgave me for that. And because of that, I got over various things, and moved a little forwards myself.」

No, I am not caring about it at all, don't bring this matter up again.....

「You do many good things, but I couldn't do anything. After I repaid

the debt with evil, I was only getting saved by you.....there is nothing more pathetic than this!」

She speaks out as if to rebuke herself. Though her voice is not much to call it loud.

「.....That's why, I want to repay the debt even if a little. I had my life and heart saved many times, and I don't think I will be able to repay the whole debt like this, but still.....」

And Elk.....comes up to me and leans her body.....and sinks her head in my chest.

In that posture.....she looks up at me with upturned eyes.

.....Even I know what she is going to say after this.

And, I.....

「That's why Minato. At least, let me.....」

「Farewell!」

「Yeah, Farewell.....What!?!」

.....ran.

The moment, Elk got in the mood, closed her eyes, let her body to me.....I ran with all my might.

Why? Isn't it obvious!!

I'm not good with them! These sort of situations!

It may only be lip-service, or one-sided convenient talk, in the first place in the present time when I am going to Red-Light District, though it may sound egoistic.....I just can't deal with a situation in which a girl is giving her body to me. For example, selling oneself for saving the family, something like that.

That isn't a exception, even if the target on the『Receiving』end is me, even if I am in a situation where I am about to go and play with my desires.

Well, I really am happy for Elk's feelings.

But, for that reason, I won't accept her offer.

.....If I did it, even if once we have a relationship like that.....I'm not confident of having conversations like we had till now. It will definitely get awkward.

She is my first after leaving home, I won't do that, not a chance.

That's why! I will refuse that offer!this all was thought in 0.1 second.

「Wai.....Hey!! Wait right there, you call yourself a man, huh.....」

Elk from behind is saying something like『Giving embarrassment to girl』and『ability』, are all purposely ignored.

I leap out of bedroom, the room.

To be honest, right now head is in chaos, but for the time being putting aside the matter of going to Red-Light District, I need to get out of here first.

Long story short.....I need to get out of her grasp first.....

「I-I resolved myself to invite you and you.....come baaaaccckkkkk!!」

I run through the corridor, and am already in front the entranceway of inn. All, last spurt.

And.....

SFX: ——DoDoDoDoDo.....Batan!! [Sound of running back]

「.....You really came back?」

「.....No, I can't pass through」

There were people. Fucking sure there were.

Most probably those drunk adventures who were making noise like『Gahahahahahaha』

And also those people, who were talking about『Adventurer in Black』. Just too many of them.

It's already too late, there shouldn't be more people, or so I thought but still more than 30 were still lurking here.

Moreover, that talk has already spread to the lobby near reception, i can't go in there to just pass through the entrance.

Are they still talking about crap, though it has already been 1 whole day.

And, I recall the words of Tanya's Papa a.k.a owner of inn『We approve fooling around if there is no fight or breaking of furniture』

In that case, I need to remain in my room, till their high-spirits calm down?

Ah, there was this idea! I can escape from window.....

「If you go Red-Light District, won't it still become a big thing to talk about?」

「.....Ah」

Certainly.

No, in this appearance, let alone Red-Light District, the moment I go to the road someone will realize me.....

And, Red-Light District is generally a pleasure district, so it will have too much of lantern lights, and in that completely bright road.....even in night, my eyes and hair color will be recognised.

And Red-Light District, is the place where the『pander』of prostitutes is done in public, without a doubt more people will 『bother』 me there.

If I just stepped there, a new rumour will start spreading, about me in black attire entering there.....

「You are certainly popular, even with everything being just a rumour」

「.....*sigh*.....」



Chapter 19 Part 2

In the end, after knowing that going out was in the first place impossible, I returned back to my room.

Even so, my thoughts won't change, I have no intention of accepting Elk's offer.

However Elk is also stubborn, is she going to wait for my rationality to collapse, it's troubling me now that she is waiting in my room.

And so, be both are simply relaxing on the sofa in room. ELk is drinking tea though.

Right now, it is a deadlock situation.

Elk is still dressed in her pajama from before, I am facepalming while filling『Ice』magic in my hand to keep my rationality while cooling down my head physically.

Yeah, it feels good.

「.....How about you stop doing that? You'll get frostbite?」

「It's fine It's fine this much won't hurt. My face is also hot right now」

「*Sigh*.....Ah, That's right, can you cool this down?」

Saying that she puts forwards her cup with brewed tea inside it. Ah,so you want to drink cold tea.

I don't have any reason to refuse, so I took the cup with my hand filled with『Ice』magic and it cooled down in just 5 seconds.

I can turn in into ice using the water in atmosphere, but she isn't wanting that so I hand her the cooled down tea.

Still awkward. This situation. Really awkward.

Situation like this-with awkward atmosphere-, I have experienced in my previous life too.

Something like having troubles talking normally like I had.

Like having money involved in the lending and borrowing between friends,

and getting merits from that, the attitude changes.

Or something like confessing the girl you like who is also your best friends, but end up with a splendid failure, and don't know how to talk to each other from now on.

.....There was 1 idiot, who did that on the first day of excursion trip, and the rest all days ended up with awkward atmosphere drifting.

The talk before is just like two best friends, recognise each other as other gender person, and are feeling strange kind of estrangement. This situation right now is just like that.

It's even more troublesome than the time I confronted that big-serpent in day. The atmosphere is unbearably too bad.

Moreover, if I somehow endured the gazes of people in the entranceway and reached Red-light District.

After that, the awkward atmosphere will not subside but increase in power level.

In that case, I who care about friendship more, have to patch up with her, let her understand my reasons, then go to Red-light District, and still not create the awkward situation, this is quite an ideal shape but.....what the fucking impossible mission I'm talking about.

Just in which world, would be a girl, who would smile and send the man who rejected her to red-Light District. Now that I about it, that just can't happen.

Then,

Elk created a stir in this uncomfortable situation.

「Honestly, it was unexpected. I surely thought I would get 2 answers」

「.....Did I look that much perverted?」

「Not that, but it should be a normal reaction」

Saying that, she sighs. And takes one sip of iced tea.

「I mean there are more people with that kind of thinking?」

「That is also included, but in this case, if by chance, it is demanded by man, a considerable price should be there. I'm repeating, but I have been saved a lot of times by you?」

During first meeting, cafe, during the time with goblins.....Elk starts counting on her fingers. [ET: Idk where did Cafe come . Cafe say hello. Cafe: hello~, the author was retard to type me here. I never came in this story, yet]

And also adds, that all were life-threatening.

Fundamentally, the occupation called adventurers have work where they have to put life in danger and are serious when the talk comes to rewards and scold at uneven partition of rewards. It's natural that they expect the reward for the work they have done.

But there isn't that general concept in me, so it's hard to think about it

too.

She also said, I saved her life, forgave her for her sins, and still not demand anything, am I some sort of damn man with noble virtue. It would be better if you demanded for my body or money.

Well, it's not like I don't understand her point. Elk has strong feelings and other stuff, so she would have stronger sense of responsibility than other people.

But, if I did it,

Then though Elk would feel relief, but I would feel sense of guilty, both ways, it would end up awkward from now on. Confirmed.

It's repeating but, I'm not good with offers like, which involve.....selling of body.

It's not becoming the solution to my fundamental problem, so no matter.....

Then,

「.....Well, if you're like that. Then it's fine」

「Eh?」

「I want to repay the debt, but I have no intention to be pushy about it. It's trouble for you that way. However.....」

Elk drinks all of the tea in her cup, and briskly comes walking up to me.

And, instinctively I put my guard up, but she touches my cheeks with her hand, and disappears from my vision,

SFX: ——Chyuu [Do you need to know?]

I feel somewhat soft feeling on my cheeks.

「.....? !? !?!?!?」

「I-It won't hurt to thi-this much, right?」

Elk speaks as such while blushing and stuttering.

My mind is steadily understanding what just happened.

But.....somewhere in my mind, it feels like it would be better if I don't understand it.

To Elk it might be just some mischievous play with some compromise.

No, well compared to that, doing a normal kiss is only lukewarm thing.

But, however,

If after that, she is blushing, it's going to be get critically bad.

Would it be easier to understand the variety of attack changed from『Woman』to『Girl』, even more briefly her appearance changed from『Erotic』to『Cute』.

In addition Elk is, umm.....I never paid much attention, but her eyes filled with her feelings, her sometimes seen disgusted eyes, her heart having clear opinions, her appearance and personality, is quite to my liking.

The attack of『Cute』is more nasty than her『Erotic』attack. It feels like desire and many more things, are hitting the roots of my brain.

And in addition to that,

「Y-You hate that thing that I'm compromising and giving this much? It's not like.....I wanted to do it on cheek, it's due to compromise! D-Don't misunderstand me.」

.....Just like that, it becomes my first day seeing a『Tsundere』,

This ain't compromise, but lethal final attack. Dodge impossible.....

SFX: Dossa

「!? Eh? W-M-Minato!? Wai, What happened suddenly!?!」

Getting a critical hit with a surprise attack while I was defenseless, having my rationality cornered, hand over the consciousness, and fall face down.

I fall along with Sofa, while making a lot of noise.

「W-What!? Why is the person who was about to go to Red-Light District, falling down with just this much!?!」

You're completely right.

But, if it will end with much without crossing over the line, isn't it all good.....

.....I was naive to even think that.

Chapter 20 『Daydreamer』

「『EiOi-Ah-』?」

「Either talk or eat, Minato」

Having being said that from mom sitting in front of my mom, I silently, tried to finish my confrontation with the large-sized BLT sandwich.

「.....You're going to select the method to eat, right. As expected of my son.」[ET: sarcasm from mom!]

This made by who is right now sighing, is one of my favorites even after I have reincarnated.

The food is the bacon from the meat of hunted demons, lettuce of more than 3 metre size, and cheese made from unknown ingredient, which mom doesn't tell me, but it's tasty so I don't care. It's important to get used to it.

Aside from that, on this seat of breakfast, I heard quite an interesting words from mom.

「.....Fu, Thanks for the food. So what was it?」

「It's 『Daydreamer』. When I was adventurer before, my friends called me that as a sort of sarcasm.」

Yeah, that's right, that's right.

『Daydreamer』

Changing into Kanji, it would mean『Visionary』or『Guy who dreams』, it should be.

『Daydream』=『day dream』, it means 『dreaming in day』 or『fantasizing』.(TN: 『デイドリーム』=『day dream』author wrote in English)

In simple words, people call those people having naive thinking or unreal fantasies in their as『Person who dreams the whole day. a.k.a daydreamer』, something like that.

My mom was used to called that by her friends because she used to dream more, or rather, her thinking was naive or something like that.

She would give charity to a complete stranger, just on a whim,

or she would forgive the person who deceived her, on her mood,

Against a reckless opponent, she would also fight in a reckless way,

As an adventurer, no, as a person living in this world with magic and swords, her thinking is called as『naive』, and someone would pull carpet from under her feet. Her this kind of thinking was more in those times.

But, why is letting me know about it now.

When I ask, her reply is『You also have the same aura around yourself』

「Do you mean that i might end up as an adult with that『naive』 thinking?」

「No, it feels different than that. In your case」

「?」

When I think a vague answer came back, Mom, from the other side of table bends forwards and looks into my face, my eyes.

Without paying attention to me being bewildered, her gaze gets poured into me.

「.....Sometimes, I can't tell your mental age, exactly. Because from childhood, you were always somewhat adult-like, with strange things and your knowledge too.」

It can't be helped that I got startled.

Well, my interior age is 18(at the time of death)+15(now). I'm going to be 16 soon.

I don't know if she knew it or not, but her next words,

「Before it felt like you, yes, you had thoughts just like a child of 13 years old, but right now, it doesn't feel like your mental age is not growing from a child.」

「Not growing?」

「Yeah. Your knowledge part of mental age is like that of 15 year old child, but this is different. It feels like.....that though your body is growing, but the inside is not growing from the childhood of yours.」

.....This person is really sharp.

Now that she says it, I do have a feeling that I am living my childhood and right now too with the same mind which was mine before reincarnation. As a child that was adult thinking, but after becoming adult it feels child-like.

I think that some part of my body too was pulled in, so aside from my mental age of『18 years』, it's like my mind and spirit both got rejuvenated.

「It feels embarrassing like that, but.....am I weird?」

「I think you are?」

「You actually agreed it!?」

I can't tell her the truth, so I feel a sense of guilty, and I tried acting like an oblivious child, the reply that came back was just too hurting.
Unexpected crap.

「No, think about it yourself. You started research of original magic at the age of 4. After that with my help, by the age of 10, you created many other absurd magic like『Elemental Blood』and many others on the first try. This has already crossed prodigy and is only monster or oddball.」

.....She said it coooommmpleetly straightforwardly, or rather without any mercy to her own small cute child.

「And that son is your child, what are you as a parent feeling?」

「Well, It's alright after all you're my child, so no problem」

No, even so what is it.

「No, Well I don't care about it that much. It's up to the person itself how he/she would grow up. The thing I have problem is with your look on world with the feeling of『Daydreamer』drifting from your mental age.」

「Look on world?」

「Yes. To me it feels like, you are thinking at as a child-like thing mentally.....」

The things she talked after that made me realize she is more sharp, and knows more about me, even more than what she previously talked——



「——Well, it's all a dream」

「.....What are saying right after waking up」

Upon opening my eyes, above me was the ceiling I know. But I'm not familiar with it.

I still remember. After getting hit by Elk's strongest combo attack, my consciousness and rationality made a home-run and I fell down along with sofa.

But, seeing myself on bed means Elk carried me after that. I would have been heavy for her thin arms.

She even politely covered me with blanket. Was she waiting for me to wake up too?

「I just can't go back leaving an unconscious person alone. Ah, don't misunderstand? I was just.....」

「Wait right there Elk. Don't say anymore or else I will once again get knocked out.」

「What do you mean?」

Elk makes a face saying, What is this guy trying to say.

You see, I'm saying it really late, but girls with 5 elements of『Disgusted eyes』,『Confidence』,『Glasses』,『Blushed face』and are『Tsundere』all are inside my strike zone.

You have 3 of them. And before I was beaten the hell out by adding the last 2 too. It resulted in me fainting.

No, it was my first time experiencing something like that.

To be honest, I was so much surprised that my heart didn't get time to beat rapidly. All happened in one second.

The moment she said『D-Don't misunderstand!』, it felt like my head got hit by a mallet and my consciousness went away.

I didn't experience something like this even during my training with mom. The world is really large, there are many things that I don't know yet.

But, I felt like my head was once again getting hot, well leaving that aside, I speak words of gratitude to Elk. 『Now it's fine』just that.

Hearing that Elk, like expected showed an expression of somewhat not agreeing, but without doing anything and saying, she this time left the

room.

She finally left, feeling relieved, I decided to sleep today too.

It feels like whatever I do, it won't go well. Let's throw all the work for tomorrow and just calmly sleep.

Chapter 20 Part 2

However some minutes later,

I confronted another problem.

I can't sleep.

There ain't even a speck of sleep inside my head. I can't possibly sleep.

On the contrary, it feels like the the sleep is running away because of that from before.

When I close my eyes, gradually this scene flashbacks behind my eyelids『D-Don't misunderstand』, and is disturbing my sleep. Fucking hell.

And, I suddenly recall that I was about to go Red-Light District for healing my unsleepable mental state.

Hell with healing, it has gotten even worse. I can't possibly sleep like this.

But, I can't possibly do that too because of the reason before. Unless I find clothes other than this, I can't go there.

It won't help lying down here, so I go out in veranda for feeling night wind for a change of mood.

In this inn, the『middle-sized rooms』or above, have veranda and terrace attached.

Then, I take out the chair too and sit on it while feeling the night wind.

「.....Looks like you can't sleep?」

From above me, that voice descended.

Upon looking, from the window above—It's not veranda, the『Window』 means it's a room of size of a business hotel room—, Elk had her face out and was looking down at me.

Huh, her room was above mine? I never knew it.

That Elk looks at me with disgusted eyes, maybe because my face is still somewhat red.

「Isn't this happening because you're trying hard to resist?」

「You still saying that」

「Even I am not convinced, you know. You too haven't felt, like that was enough for repaying the debt, right?And I don't know why, you even

collapsed」

「No, I'm fine with that only」

Rather, I want to pay back the change for that.

「I see」

「And, Elk too doesn't want to do it because you want to, right?」

Even if she is an adventurer, she still is a girl. She won't think of giving her body voluntarily.

For her, within the things she could do, that might be the best way to repay the debt. Because I'm a male.

Then she,

「.....It's not like that」

「Eh?」

What does that mean, huh?

I look up at those words, in Elk's eyes, along with disgusted glare, a clear and distinct consciousness was lingering.

To the extent that it seems like, she had no intention to sleep.

「.....I can't explain it clearly, though」

It was 2 years ago, that Elk became an adventurer.

The trigger for it was, the loss of her mother who raised her through female labour.

For some reason, Elk who lived with only her mother, was raised without knowing her father.

Because Elk has never met the relatives of mother's side of family too, so she became an adventurer to be self-independent, and has lived alone till now.

Elk's mom was an adventurer in her younger days, she gained the ABC's required by adventurers, thinking if such a day would come, she told her the required techniques, and many more things, and she also gave the equipments for it, though they are second-hand.

It was also one of the reason, why she chose the route of adventurers.

However as if natural, she had to suffer lot of troubles.

She lived a daily life including beating the asses of demons. It had been a thorny path, not much hard to guess it.

Still, Elk without forgetting her daily efforts, had reached till here.

However, during the training and whatnot, it was she and her mom, after becoming independent became a solo-person, she didn't had any existence of a person she can call as『Friend』

It's not like she was completely alone, she was able to meet new adventurers of same age while doing quests and all. Investigating together, taking up the quests, both parties mutually increased their skills while doing them.

However, for a person she could trust completely in that, she wouldn't shake her head vertically.

Just like I said before, the work of adventurers, is to not only fight demons, but also humans.

Going out in society one needs to depend on other people for living, there are also those with bad thinkings. Just like those bastards from before.

A friend you can trust in both public and private matters, is not easily found.

However, to an『Adventurer』who works along danger always, this thing is like fate. It's not like they can easily give their lives in hands of others without any trust.

It becomes even more difficult for a beginner. Thinking about that in itself is absurd.

Thinking that, Elk seemed to have persuaded herself. It would be good luck, if she were to find a person she can call friend within the next 10 or 20 years.

At that time, she met me.

「To be honest, I thought you were a person without having any way of thinking normally, when I first met you. Your clothes too are eccentric, and your insides are even more inunderstandable.」

Sorry for looking evil, completely black from top to bottom.

「Of course, soon after, I learned about your caliber, and power. Let it be demons, or thieves you easily kicked their asses, you kept on being kind to me, an ungrateful person.....you created chaos in my mind.」

I sense, somewhat tiredness and astonishment in her tone. Sigh is also included.

「You showed me and made me understand it completely. That this guy is even above extraordinary. It's even useless to compare you.」

「You don't have to speak about me as if I'm some sort of monster.」

「You are doing all the work, that one can't help but say it. Just where

would be, a person who can be alive and pimping after confronting that big-serpent and fire magic?」

Ah, She has hit the right point. I can't refute.

「Just like that, even though you are completely different, even knowing that I'm a criminal, you still talked to me with friendly attitude.....」

「Hmm~, Well, it wasn't a thing that I would worry about」

The moment I replied unintentionally,

I saw a somewhat sad expression on Elk's face. What happened?

「.....Let's change the talk. Do I look sleepy?」

「Nope not at all. Why you ask?」

「I had been thinking from before. There is something in your that attitude」

My attitude? What the hell does that mean?

「You use words like『Just on whim』or『I just did because I wanted to』, right? Even at the time you saved me, I think you used it」

「? Was it like that?」

I don't remember it that much.

「At first I thought it comes from because of your strength that you are able to be calm and composed, but while the time I talked with you, it felt like it's something different」

「What」

「I couldn't understand it. You seem like you don't think at all, but easily see through the strangest points. You're absurdly strong, but you never show it with your words or actions. And more than anything.....even with that attitude of interacting with others without creating a wall, it feels like somewhere on the essential part you are too much far」

「.....? 」

Distance, huh.....? I never thought about it like that.

「But, even with those factors, To me, you were the first adventurer I could easily talk to, easily befriend with, your strength and broad-mindedness, was charming for me. Though it might be imprudent, but if possible I thought to become Minato's that kind『Partner』,the moment I thought it.....I realized it.」

「Realized?」

「Yeah, I understood what caught me in your attitude」

Then, Elk changed her expression to a serious one, and looking in my eyes from above, she said.

「Minato, what if.....you are seeing friends, enemies, each and everything with some sort of rose-colored glasses. As if.....you're looking at some fantasy inside a picture book」

「.....!!」

「.....!!」

The moment I heard it,

The scene I saw in my dream just before,

I recalled the fact that mom also told me the same before.

☆☆☆

「It feels like sometimes, that you see the research of magic, or demons, nope, this whole world as some sort of fantasy inside a picture book」

「Haaa?」

「I can feel it like you're looking at some story written inside some book and you're only the reader of it. And that to this world you are living in. It

might be somewhat difficult question, but.....haven't you ever realized it?」

「E-Even if you say it.....err.....」

It's only natural that I unintentionally replied.

because, it was the best to say it like that.

「Ah, that in itself is not much of a strange thing. It's something everyone thinks once in their life. I remember me thinking like that during my younger days. It will heal with time, don't worry about it.」

Hearing those words of mom, the word of『Reality Dissociation Syndrome』rose up from the vocabulary from my previous life.

Thinking the world one is living in as some fictitious story, and other than him/her all others are characters of story, in a sense that mistaking is a disease.

But, this isn't something like peculiar disease, just like mom said, every human once or twice suffers from it. Most suffer from it, during their childhood times without being able to distinct the reality from fictional world.

Naturally something virtual can never become real. Just like mom said, after living many years, the common sense will drill itself in their brains and it would heal by itself.

I don't think there would a middle-school student, whose future dream is to become shapeshifting Hero.

But for the current me, something like『Common Sense』doesn't work.

After all, after dying in accident, I am able to be『Reincarnated in another world』. And that to, in the world with magic and swords, just like fantasy novel world setting. It would be impossible to not be curious about it.

Particularly to me, who always read Web Novels with stories like this.
[ET: Readers, it's for you . Be aware of the truck driver (maybe promoted to something else).]

Due to that, maybe I unconsciously, saw this world with magic and swords as some game or novel from my previous life.

I didn't realize it myself.....but if asked, that if didn't at all, it's difficult to actually nod at that time.

「Mom, your's was healed with time?」

「That's right. But in my case, it took a really long time to heal, only after I grew many years old.....thanks to that, my friends attached that strange nickname to me」

「Is it by chance?」

「Yeah. It's『Daydreamer』. Including the fact, that I used to dream a lot.」

I see, certainly it's like『Daydreaming』.

So she is a daydreamer including many things like thinking the world as story. It worries me that they used this word for things not related to it's meaning, but yeah, they sure are great people!

「.....If I'm that, will it heal?」

「It's fine, it will heal without fail! When time passes, it would have been healed before you know it. You'll find some trigger for that while living」

「Trigger? For example?」

「For example, the moment.....you start seeing the true feelings of some other person with your eyes. The true and serious feelings or words of others towards a person, come without restraint and reason. It will come with an impact, that can easily break the shitty thin filter made from visionary delusions. There will be a day, you would meet a person like that」

「Why can't it be mom? You are seriously facing me.....aren't you?」

「You're harsh. No, well, I'm always serious you know, but because you were with me since birth that our distance has closed too much. The chances of it healing are more with someone who is nearly like a stranger

to you.」



I see.

Recalling that, I now realize, what the fuck, I too am an exclusive limited versioned『Daydreamer』.

From yesterday till today.

At times Elk said『You're too kind!』, I replied with『It's just on whim』.

At the time she pointed out my attitude against demons, my answer『I can win after all』.

At that time, I didn't had any genuine intention behind it, but thinking upon it once again, I can understand it from a different perspective. How scary is that.

In a game, it's all up to the player's whim, to save whom, to move like what, to abandon whom, how to use the reward and all that crap.

And this world, has the environment clearly too much near to it. It's already apparent.

I do know how precious a person's life is, how valuable money, and how

to reply to something with equal position.

But, because all that was completed with 1 punch or 1 kick, and this『Another World』is different from my previous world, that I forgot about it. Maybe from somewhere in my heart, I was still looking at this world through the filter.

That's why maybe, I had been looking at the dealing of money, heaps of raw materials of demons and the debt of life as『Just that much』.

To Elk it might have been the debt she couldn't possibly repay easily.

Hearing just one word, I got in thinking, maybe Elk is watching me, and is keeping quiet.

The moment my mind has been enlightened, she stares in my eyes and,

「Hey, Minato, I maybe don't have the right to ask this, even if I had it might be impudent to ask it, but.....tell me now」

Elk said that, with the same serious eyes as before.

「Do you have a clue to what I just said? Wasn't it like, you looked at everything including me as just something.」

I do have a clue.

I was looking at them just something found anywhere.

Magic too, Demons too, City too, Dungeon too, Thieves too.....probably Elk, too.

.....There should be limits to being rude.

They are not the characters from some game or novel after all.

「Well, it might be because of your strength that you can see it with that POV, and so I don't have any reason to say anything on that matter.」

Stop speaking like that.

I didn't knew it just before, but I surely looked at all people with a rude attitude that knew no control.

「.....That you, showed desire like a human, just before」

Suddenly Elk starts blushing, seems like she recalled the talk from before-Red-Light District and so on-. Eh, What does that mean?

「Ah, don't say it anymore.....」

「At that time, I found a place that I can be in inside of you.」

Oi, Don't ignore the cute me.

「I'm repeating it, but.....I seriously have no problem in becoming like that with you?」

「.....For repaying the debt?」

「Maybe not only for that. If it was just for that, I would feel the conflict inside me, but I don't have anything like that」

She is now sending me her gaze, with more serious glint in her eyes.

Though her face is still red. But, for what reason. That blushing.....it feels like it has some other meaning behind it.

「That's why Minato, if you have any clue to what I said right now.....clear it away, and look at me one more time. No matter.....what impression of me is reflected in your eyes at that time.」

「.....」

In the words of Elk, I can feel resolution filled in them.

They are leaving the sound inside my head as if being engraved on them.

「If I looked like a hateful criminal in your eyes, at that time I will surrender myself and repent for my sins. At that time, with your testimony, I can be easily arrested. It's alright if I still look like an existence

you don't care about. Rather, it is most befitting of me.....but.....if at that time.....」

「A-At that time?」

「If you see me even a little more charming than before, then.....」

Elk, as though she is embarrassed turn her gaze aside,

However, after re-thinking, once again looks back at me.

「At that time I don't want you to keep restraint. It might be good to become like that with you, no, I want to become an existence like that for you, it's not related to debt or adventurer or anything like that.....」

One beat later,

「.....I have fallen for your charm and ability.....as a woman」

If someone said this to me in Japan, it would seem like a confession for love. I am strange to even think something absurd like that.

I don't know if Elk has any intention like that while saying me to look in her eyes.

But,

I can understand that they are her true feelings, her true intentions-And she can't bear the embarrassment, that her face is as red as apple-. Aside for the observing eye of an adventurer, even I can understand something like that.....I think.

And,

There is no man whose heart would skip a beat having a girl say that in front of their face, probably.

Not good. My face is too hot. Probably really red too.

I fill my hand with『Ice』magic to cool my face.....Hell, it doesn't work.

The outer surface is getting cooled, but inside my head, is still really hot.

Fuck that, every time I'm thinking about it, I can feel my heart putting it's legs on the gas pedal and is accelerating.

I can understand with intuition. I'm a goner now.

It's not something like lust, but something more fundamental is getting aroused.

From Elk's confession right now. (temporary name)

And that girl. After saying her words, is now looking at the night sky ignoring me.

That girl in Pajamas, is bathing in the moonlight falling on her from the window, with her face a little red.....and I am looking at her from below. HueHue, She's so sexy.

Well then,

The words Elk just said are all her true feelings. Though I don't know it completely, but it had her goodwill included.

And right now,

The feelings to reply to her feelings inside my heart are making a whirlpool.....it feels like that.

Of course, I can't deny the possibility of it being simple lust.

I can't, but.....

.....This too is, my『True Feelings』

「.....Err, Elk」

「.....What?」

「.....Will you.....stay for tonight?」

On my words with a face even probably more redder than her's, She stood there as if she froze.

But, as if she understood the reason the second later, her expression changed to somewhat bewildered and amazed.

However, retracting all those, after taking a deep breath,

「!? Wha.....!?」

Know what? Shein sleepwear jumped from the window above me.

I stand up from the chair in a hurry, and catch her falling body.

「Hey!? What are you trying to do, huh!? If you got injured.....」

「It's fine. I knew you would save me」

Elk says as such carelessly, while being in my arms-just like a princess carrying form-, but her face is even more redder than before.

I think about that things I am about to do from now on. Hey, I don't have time to do that.

「Aside from that.....weren't you bad with things like this?」

「Well, that's right. but if you say like that, I can't help but back down, something like that.....」

「Hmm~.....Well, from your face color it doesn't look like you can wait till tomorrow.」

「.....Just whose fault is it for making my face like this」

「Yes Yes. You don't have to worry, I will take the responsibility」

「AH, Yeah. Take care of.....not that, Err, umm, D-Don't be rough.....」

「.....That's a girl's line, you idiot」

Her face is still blushing, but the smile on her face, was saying as though she would finally be able to do what she wanted.

Next Morning,

We in the same bed, overslept.

Chapter 21 – Rain Falls Ground Hardens and Much More

「.....Beast」

「.....Sorry」

From Elk with disgusted eyes while wearing pajamas.....those cold words.

No, well.....yeah, I overdid it.

[ET: #@^\$#^%*&^%*)^\$%^\$@\$!\$#&R%(&)]

[AK: ok what exactly has he done??? that is somehow wondering me]

Accepting Elk's kindness, the result of me working too hard, the burden and fatigue was too big.

She has lost her whole strength, let alone stand, she can't even move even a little.

The result, she is now bedridden. She can't move at all.

「Well I did say to do whatever you like, but.....I never thought you would do to this extent.」

「.....Yes, Sorry」

「Well, It's the truth that I don't have much stamina, it's a little bit disappointing.....I understand that much. It was me who asked for it in the first place.」

「Yes.....」

「.....But it would be good if you had consideration about me.....how can you still be fine after this?」

.....Well, that's right.....

As for the period of time, we started in the dead of night, and kept on it *Rub Rub* till the time it seemed like the sun is going to rise.

No, after all err, Elk was really good.

[ET BHC&O^\$@*T&# B^#B WTFH%FH*]

[AK: aye that was a really sportive night]

The feeling of embracing her small body was really good. In both meanings.

Though it's slender, but her muscles are toned, and feel good on embracing.

Moreover, he innocent reaction on bed was just too great.

And in addition, the two patterns of enjoying that reaction, with glasses or without glasses, oh wow.....Ah, no, that is somewhat different.

Anyhow, after drowning in the charm of Elk, I got in high spirits.

It's result, the current situation.

In truth, this much fatigue might take 3 days to recover from. I know it because I remember how much wrecked her.

But, I did the after-care on that.

「But, the ointment from before, really worked. Most of the pain has gone」

Just like Elk, who is saying while touching her hips, I rubbed the ointment specially made by mom, which I stole.

The ointment works wonders, unlike the things sold in market, the muscular pain and all instantly disappears, even if before noon she isn't able to return to her usual form, she would be able to move.

By tomorrow, she would most probably be completely fine.

By the way, there was a paper patch on the lid of the ointment phial, on that,

『I pray it won't be used for some particular reason by a girl. Girls are delicate, take care of them』

.....These grateful words were written by mom.

I'm sorry, I read it too late.

「Sigh.....You seem more decent than what I had thought, aren't you?」

「I can't say anything.....」

「Well, It's alright. But still, to worry about those things too of her own son.....you're truly gifted」

Though Elk is praising mom, it also means『You are receiving favors to this extent from your parents, have shame, idiot』, not like I can refute.

「I'm sorry for saying all that yesterday, but this time I agree with your mom. I'm fine with it, but if you don't remember to be gentle with girls.....then it would be a problem for girls you do it with in the future」

「Sorry, yeah, Forgive me. But you were so cute.....」

「F-For saying that to me.....as a woman I am happy.....」

「That's why, I accidentally remembered my first.....with mom and got in high spirits.....」

「.....Eh?」

「.....Ah」

Huuuh, just what the fucking shit hell I just said?

It's scary to recall it but, let's go back 5 seconds before.

『That's why, I accidentally remembered my first.....with mom and got in high spirits.....』

My tongue slippppppeeeeeeddddddd!!?

I look at Elk's dumbfounded appearance.

However, her eyes are changing to from disgusted eyes to the eyes with cold temperature, as if saying『This guy is.....』, Wha, Wait!

「Minato, you.....」

「W, Wa-Wait Elk! It's different! It's a misunderstanding! No, in a way, it's not.....No it really is a misunderstanding! Listen! Listen to me.....」

「No, Alright I got it! I really got it! Now that I got it, for the time being get 3 metres away from me right now」

She doesn't understand! She definitely didn't get it.

Listen to that it's an misunderstanding while it's not, Hey wtf am I even speaking from before. Calm down me.....no,it's impossible.

「I knew you were not normal, but to that extent.....」

「No it is! Misunderstanding, it's different! It's completely fine!」

「No, what is alright?」

「It was only once!」

「It's enough to get away from me!!」

SFX: ——*Bafuuu*

A pillow came flying. Huh, did I do say something wrong?

[ET: Fucking hell with DT types u4 0yw4 5uyw45u*75w47
4v^#\$\$^#&^#E^%@\$QE^&]

[AK: by the way... for those who do not know DT is short for dotei which means virgin]

[ET: DT is a double meaning short word. It means Doutei (virgin (exclusive for male) and donkan, the thick-headed typical MC's of yeah most of animes, LN's, and mangas)]

「It's the problem before it! I can't believe it too.....d-don't tell me, you assaulted a mom that can't turn down her child's request? No, or rather, you forcibly hold your mom with that strong physical strength and.....」

「It's different! I did it definitely did it, or rather, the one who was desiring, err I mean, the one who assaulted me was mom」

「What is with that!? Just what is wrong with your family!?!」

「I can't possibly win against mom in physical strength」

「Really what is your family!?!」

I somehow feel like Elk's fatigue is in ultra-high speed increasing.

She is hearing about my little, no, completely special family, so it's natural for her to act like this.

「Sigh. I don't care anymore. I don't care, but when will you feel better after picking my nerves. You defeat demons bare-handed, blades can't cut you, You won't burn inside fire, Acid can't melt you, you already have a lot of things.....」

Elk with her increased tired feeling,

murmured quietly.

For her, it might be be as a joke or nothing important at all,

or just a monologue, but

「Are you really, human, huh」

.....

「Do I look like one?」

「Eh?」

Chapter 21 Part 2

「Succubus.....!?!」

I told her.

Without concealing anything, everything.

No, I didn't tell her things like previous life or reincarnation, neither the unnecessary things like, the secret of my re-birth and much more.

Even so, I clearly, explained that I am a man who can use Succubus's power due to sudden『Mutation』.

No, well, I seriously thought if it was good to tell her,

She thought of me as just a fellow adventurer who can help her with investigating or

I'm just a man she spent 1 night with. Nothing else.

If our relation was just like the above examples, then I probably wouldn't have told her anything.

Because my birthplace and present condition is not normal, it's only

taking on risks by telling it to others. In my case it is.

.....But,

strangely, I didn't want to hide it from Elk.

It might be me thinking deeply, but that night –aside from what I did–, we both communicated while revealing our true feelings.

Though she invited me first, in the end it ended up as me wanting it, and she accepted my wish.

It's the result of our true feelings talking together.....So I'm not in the wrong.

To her, who even entrusted herself to me because she trusted me, I didn't want to hide it from her.

No, well, it might only be self-satisfaction, but you see self-satisfaction is an important thing of life? If you are『Satisfied and confident in yourself』, then you will without a doubt fall and die in a ditch.

And then,

In future, I would also not like it to hide the truth from her, while having fun.

She is quite sharp, it would eventually be exposed.

That Elk, who heard the truth is right now frozen stiff from the shock of bitter truth.

「In other words, you are『Demi-human』.....or are you not a『Human』?」

「No well, I can classified as『Human』, yeah most probably? I can use the power of succubus due to the mutation, just that much」

「I don't think it's a talk you can finish with『Just that much』, is it true.....」

Maybe she『Accepted』the fact, Elk nodded while sighing.

To be honest, at this point, though I can expect her to keep it as a secret, but I can't expect for her to talk to me normally, she would look at me strange eyes.....I thought it right now. But it was me who said it.

Even so, I didn't want to hide it, so I talked about it.

And, Elk's reply,

「I don't really care about this much?」

「Eh, Really」

「Really」

This development went far above my expectations.

No, no matter.....how many demi-human species like Elves and Dwarves (not like I have met them yet) are, but strange oddities inside them, people like me, aren't accepted so easily, I seriously thought that.

Then,

「It's not like I don't care about it at all, but still, it won't change my evaluation of you」

She tells me that.

「Certainly, it's not normal, but it's nothing to be amazed of. I already know what sort of person you are. Though you're diligent you look stupid, You're kind but still have guts of steel, You're strong, have kind and warm heart.....are rough at nights, and just have power different from normal people.....」

She said all in one breath.

She looked into my eyes,

「.....You are just a rookie adventurer, I can trust」

and said as such.

Ah, how should I say it, Yeah, I'm honestly happy.

Her words were mostly joke on me, but it can't be changed that I'm not a pure『Human』.

Due to that reason, I have resolution to face some discomfort after coming out in this society(?). Mom was also worried about it.

That's why, I'm happy that she can still clearly speak『I can trust』to me.

.....Yean, truly.....

「.....I.....」

「 ? 」

「I'm really happy, that Elk is my first friend after getting out for journey.」

「.....!?Y-You.....! can speak those embarrassing things, easily!」

SFX: ——*Bafuu!*

Once again Pillow missile. Why?

「.....Should I also add『Thick-headed (TN: DT)』in the evaluation of yours」

「haaa?」

「Nothing at all」

Elk having her face slightly red (it seemed like that), she once again lies down.

I don't know exactly, but if it's nothing bad, no problem.

Then, as though she suddenly remembered it while still having red face,

「No that I think about it, Minato, do you remember what you said yesterday」

「Hm?」

Yesterday? By yesterday.....does she mean that?

「I-It's late, but are you fine.....wanting to be in a team with someone like me?」

to the shy Elk, yesterday's night, I proposed this offer to her.



Well then, now for recap of Elk's talk from some time before,

the adventurers, not all are people that can be trusted. There are more people, who gave their selfish desires the priority, make use of others, and try to kick down other people.

Furthermore, to a girl like Elk, it is a more serious problem.

In that case, then either go with someone you really trust, or go in dungeon alone, but it's not like everything happens so easily in life.

That person who can be『Trusted』is not present in the first place, it is troublesome to find one too, and there are not many people who try to go in dungeons alone.

For various reasons, a partner is essential for adventurers.

Like needing a person who can cover a person with low fighting ability, or someone who has knowledge and skills that one doesn't.....there is no end to the reasons.

Furthermore, I completely know that I lack common sense. And so for filling up my bad areas, I thought to have a partner for myself.

Therefore, the mission of getting a person『Who can be trusted』even if it takes time, is one of the the most important ones.....

Based on that, I asked Elk to make a team with me.

Hearing that, Elk was perplexed as though saying『Insane?』.

No, leaving aside the fact that it should be『Seriously?』,

Fighting strength, courage, agility, and assets too, no matter how you see it, are greatly inferior to mine.

Frankly put, it would only be a hindrance.

She said 'I'm happy that you trust me' but, will someone like you who is not in the realm of normal, be happy to form a team with some like me.

It's obvious that there will troubles in future, still you want to form a team.

.....I replied to those inquires in.....0.5 seconds.

『I don't wanna if it's not Elk』

Our last 3 days we lived together, were quite deep.

Elk had her life saved by me, her problems too were cleared by me,

and I being me, was absolutely devoid of any knowlegde, and got her teaching me.

There was also the matter with the thieves, I can't say, that our relation was without any problems, but in the end, it ended up with a good bond forming.

Only than I got to know that Elk is strict to herself, her sense of responsibility is also strong, and I am the one she trusts.

Finally, last night we crossed the line.

Though it had only been only 3 days since we met, but they were enough for us to understand each other.

Furthermore, this is only an intuition, but I don't feel like I will meet a person who will be like Elk and trust me like her.

This is fate, it's not like I want to used some cliched pick-up line, but it's finally an opportunity, why let it go?

That's why, I clearly said that I don't have a problem with you.

Then, Elk who is still getting red, gave me the answer I had been waiting for the most.

SFX: Gashiii

We both exchanged handshakes, instead of many words.

「Err, I can't explain it properly, but.....take care of me from now on, Minato」

「It's good enough with that much. You're welcome, Elk!」

And well,

With all the turns and twists, on the 3rd day after leaving home.

I, Minato Quadrille, made.....my first partner ever.

Well then, where would I go with her and what adventures are waiting for us.....

Chapter 22 – The True Identity of Sly Fox

Some days after the day of big-serpent's death,

We were invited to come to the building of the『Malras Association』.

As though, she took our circumstances into consideration, Okami-san, no I mean Noel-san, prepared a carriage for us.

Seeing it standing outside the inn, it seemed more flashy than anything, but all doubts about getting in, disappeared, when I found out that the carriage is fast and nobody would stop it.

Inside the carriage, I had free time, so I tried to talk to Elk about something that I suddenly remembered.

「Now that I think about it, I forgot to ask you」

「What?」

「Elk, why did you have the debt for? You are economist and won't do something harsh as that, or so I heard from Tanya-chan」

I only asked her due to my curiosity, if she had doesn't want to say, I won't ask.

Then, Elk after hesitating a bit.....

「.....I will tell. It's not something that needs to be kept as secret.....」

I have already heard, Elk's mom, was an adventurer in past.

Even though, she was only a normal adventurer, not like some legendary hero or something like that which only happens in Web Novels.

And her mom, was the so-called single mother.

Elk doesn't know why she didn't have her father.

[ET: Father got his energy sucked by Minato's mom.(lol)]

[AK: that is a little too sneaky, isn't it]

After giving birth to Elk, her mom retired from being an adventurer and raised her by being a staff member at the guild.

In the case of an somewhat famous adventurer changing jobs to Staff member of the Guild, then they can keep on getting the benefits of the Guild Card. Elk's mom chose this route.

Like that, the mom and daughter lived a modest yet happy life.

However, some years ago, her mom left the world because of a disease.

Recovering from grief, Elk was using the knowledge and skills needed for adventurers and so decided to become an adventurer herself.

But, during the time she lived with her mom, there was a time when their livelihood was in danger, at that time her mom sold her favorite high-class equipment she used in her adventurer days, and somehow pulled through the dilemma.

Its name is『Crystal Dagger』. It's an dagger, with its blade made of hard crystal.

Elk, found it some days ago in the shop.

It's quality had fallen quite a bit, but its price was not that high too, even though, that price was something Elk, a rookie adventurer, can never get easily.

Even so, she wanted to get back the only memento of her mother, she desperately tried everything, like paying in installments or bargaining.

Her desperation was quite showing, and it attracted them to her.

After getting the memento of her mother she felt relief, but now she fell in a situation she would lose everything, not only the dagger.

Agitated, she took a loan, without even checking the contract, and successfully fell in the trap of the shopkeeper and the moneylender.

「Geez, saying it's for mom and what not, even mom might be laughing at that」

While speaking in a masochistic tone, Elk takes out something from her bag.

In her hand, is the dagger which just came up in the talk before.

It's haft and scabbard are of old metal, it gives out the complete feel of an old-fashioned thing.

Elk, while looking at it with distant eyes filled with nostalgia,

「I just wanted to get this dagger which mom used back in her younger days. It's not like mom is going to come back or anything is going to change.....I can't explain it clearly. It's result, this, isn't it laughable」

「Hee~.....」

「Right now, even the price upon this dagger seems suspicious to me. That shop seemed like it deals with stolen goods too. I'm really an idiot」

Told me that in a strange way.

.....Err, Can I ask you to stop for a bit?

That dagger, kind of is piquing my interest.

「.....Hey, Elk」

「? What, Minato?」

「Can you show me that? Especially the blade part」

「? I don't really mind.....but why?」

Elk gives me the dagger while having a『?』floating above her head.

After taking it, I took out the blade from scabbard.

The thing that appeared, is an opaque crystal blade with little shine.

Indeed, like this it's not strange for it to be of low price.

At the very least, on its appearance, it won't look something valuable.

.....That's why they didn't knew it.

Neither the corrupt merchant, neither the shopkeeper and nor Elk.

They didn't knew that it's not only some normal crystal dagger.

「Elk, how much did you pay for it?」

「.....I don't want to recall, but 1 gold coin. Thinking on it now, it was a rip-off」

I see, 1 gold coin. So it means 1 million Japanese Yen.

「You did some good shopping there, Elk」

「.....It's the first time you said something sarcastic. But you don't have the right to complain」

「No, I'm not being sarcastic. Or rather, was your mom, during her adventurer days, a really famous adventurer?」

「? What do you mean?」

I see, You don't know about it.

You don't know what this.....crystal dagger is.

But, I know.

That this ain't some damned normal dagger, it's the『Magic Item』which mom told me about before.

Moreover.....it's one of the weapons that mom classified as『Rarely

found in dungeons only』. It's appearance and real matter don't match up, it's a fucking great thing.

The moment I thought to tell her, the carriage stopped with a shake.

A second later, a voice comes from outside.

「Thank you for coming. You're Minato-sama and Elk-sama, right? I have been informed by Irene-sama already, please head this way」

Outside the carriage, a butler-like-middle-aged-man said as such while bowing.

Oh.....I'll tell her later, for the time being let's get out.



「Sorry for the wait. Thank you for coming here today, Elk-han and Minato-han please have fun」

Noel-san, came into the drawing room, bows, and sits on the sofa in the position as though she is interviewing us.

She is holding various documents for today's agenda in her hands, which is the reason for our visit, the『Procedures』.

However, when I thought it will just end like this, at that exact moment,

a person came inside from the door, that I was thought to be closed.

He is a man who has the atmosphere different from that of an merchant, wearing some sort of uniform-like clothes.

Although he is thin, but has solid body build and has a saber hanging from his waist.

His grizzled hair and moustache bringing out a dandyism feeling, a perfect match.

「You're Elk Caucus-dono and Minato Quadrille-dono, right. I'm Lando, the secretary of the garrison headquarters in Volka. I'm the Vice-Captain's Assistant」

He too, tried to sit on the sofa like Noel-san quickly, but only after introducing himself to us.

Hearing the words Garrison Headquarters -The lower branch of Army, something like Police in this world- , Elk got startled, but soon enough straighten her back and face Lando-san by herself.

The scene easily tells her resolution.

As though she confirmed it, Noel-san opens her mouth.

「Well, let's get started. Lando-han, I leave the records and documents to you.」



Briefly put, the reason Elk has come here today is to complete the detailed procedures so as to not have future troubles with the debt incurred due to those damned moneylenders and to tell everything she knows about the kidnappers.

As for former, it looks like she learnt from her mistakes. She read the documents prepared by Noel-san from top to bottom without leaving any word. Honestly, it took a lot of time.

But when we started our work after that, it got faster. Elk and Noel-san signed and stamped on many documents, and Noel-san put them in an envelope after checking them.

According to Elk, from hereon there won't be any troubles related to this anymore. I see, though I didn't understand a bit, but it looks like the procedures are all complete without any problems.

Next, the 2nd work, the information.

Lando-san, the so-called『Secretary』has come here to clearly record the information.

He keeps on writing Elk's each and every word, without any mistakes.

After writing everything, he groaned for a bit『Erm』, but it ended up

with nothing, just like what happened with Noel-san a few days ago.

Though they would use her testimony, but due to lack of evidence it ended up as being non-prosecuted.

It's not decided right here and now, but it's the most reasonable thing that might happen. Just like Noel-san said, due to their work being busy, they won't cut up personnel and time for just『Attempted Crimes』.

The moment the conclusion was made, Lando-san left.

With this, finally, this time truly, this uproar is dealt with.

However, both me and Elk are waiting without going back.

It's because the thing Noel-san said before『Some Personal Business』, I don't even know the contents of it.

She isn't showing any hostility, so it's not like there is a trap or something dangerous, but it isn't good to be not on guard.

After all, the time we first met.....I was in my combat stance, with even more enhanced sensing abilities than normal, but let alone her approach, I couldn't even sense her spectating us from far.

「Well then, now is the talk with Minato-han」

「Sigh. What might the business be? Isn't that time our first meeting? If I'm called for something else, then I can't seem to find anything.」

「Yeah, don't worry, it's nothing troublesome. Just, I have something to talk about and hand over something to you」

Saying that Noel-san puts her hand inside the sleeve of kimono, and moves as though she is searching something

And, the thing in her hand which came out some seconds after was,

「Yes, take it as a sign of friendship. Take it?」

(.....Commuter Pass Case)

.....something like that I know.

It's something like the commuter case container that is used in automatic turnstiles of a station, or rather it is something that really looks like it.

It's painted in black and silver, though it's thin and small, but it looks sturdy and profound.

But, even so, I can't come up for what am I going to use it in this world with no magnetic cards or automatic turnstilesHm? Card?

「Is it something, you put the guild card inside?」

「Good Insight~. However, not any card can be put in it. This case itself has lot of special privileges, so you won't have to take out the card at guild every time.」

「「Privileges?」」

Elk and mine voices resounded in harmony.

At that, as though she was waiting for it a long time, Noel-san starts her explanation.

「Right. You get discounts at inns, weapon shops and shopping with just like the guild card, right? Showing the guild card inside this case, you'll get more discounts in shops, you can get in VIP areas, and can purchase the commodities from secret lists, that are not used publicly」

「Hm.....」

But of course, it only works on legal commodities, hearing all that, I feel impressed. Just by having this, I can have less burden on my wallet, and expand my shopping area.

But at the same time, this is quite damned suspicious.

「Err, Why would you give me, someone who you just met recently, something that good? From what I have heard, it seems like a quite good,

no, extremely good item」

In my previous world, it would be something like membership privileges only for celebrities.

On the civilization levels, this extraordinary thing (It might have an unexpected twist, like it can be used on some shops only), can't be easily given to just anyone.

Upon looking sideways, Elk also has the same opinion. Charming, no more than that, it feels like her glare is getting sharp and the air around her getting vigilant. Lovely.

The air inside the drawing room, has shifted from gaining and not gaining something to what is she planning behind it.

「Well, it's only natural to be vigilant. In truth, this can't be bought with even 100 gold coins」

「With that my vigilance levels are already 100 times more powerful」

100 Gold Coins!

Almost 100 million Yen!? Ah, No, it won't suffice with that, huh

There ain't no damn fucking way I get that for free. There definitely some ulterior motives. It would be strange if there are no ulterior motives.

Or rather, fuck all that, In the first place, this isn't something you give to someone.

But, what did I do to demand that, I, a rookie adventurer, get this superb thing? No fricking clue at all.

Maybe hiring me as bodyguard.....no, can't see that happen. It's only recently that i met her. It's dangerous to hire some guy with unknown birth.

In that case, she wants something of my belonging?

These gauntlets or shin guards? Or this scarf? Belt?

The thing, which seems most likely to be her im is『Necromicon』,maybe? It's a magical grimoire smelling dangerous! all the time, the contents written are also quite advanced.

When I think that,

Noel-san suddenly laughs Kukuku for some reason.

「Ah, Sorry. Your face looked same as that person」

「? Face?」

「Yeah, to your mother's. Her face when thinking, perfectly matches yours」

「!? You know my mom!?!」

That freaked me out. Totally unexpected words. She knows about my mom too.

Can she be acquaintance of mom? Friend? And so, she is giving me this good item as a present, because I'm her friend's son.

No, she might have something to do with mom.

She has many awesome things after all. The money is a given, but the pet she has, and many magic items which seem like a joke and much more she has.

And, the next words fired at me and Elk who too is getting nervous, are.....

「No, nothing like acquaintance or anything. She too, is my mom」

[AK: first sister found...]

Earth-shattering unexpected freaking truths.

「What!?!」

I shout out forgetting my position and politeness. But It can't be helped, I think.

The bombshell announcement she just made, is a bomb which is not a bomb.

.....calm down, I'm not making any sense.

Err, Just what did this person say!?

Let's see.....『She too is my mom』must mean, that she too is born from her, right?

I-In other words, this Noel-san and my relation is,

「I have made you wait a long time, once again I will do self-introduction. I'm Noel Co Malras. This is my father side surname, the mother side surname would be Quadrille. I'm the fourth-born daughter of Lilyn Quadrille, inevitably, I'm your elder sister, my lil brother♪」

☆☆☆

No, Well, I did know?

I did know that I have some elder brothers and sisters whose name and face I don't even know about?

Even so, preparing the heart is needed before meeting them, right?

However, there's no helping now, so let's sort the situation.

Looks like.....the fact that this person Noel Co Malras is really my mom's daughter and my elder sister.

No, I did not believe her at first, but she had predicted it, so she asked for a quiz with questions related to mom which only people closely related to her would know, and she answered all correctly which cleared my doubts.

The thing that convinced me more was, one letter she took out.

And, the golden shining wings enclosed in the letter sealed with magic beeswax.

The moment I saw, it I perceived the familiar smell of magical power and the wings appearance.

After taking in my hands, I was convinced.

This was the wings of『Stork』.....the bird with golden wings bought by mom as a pet.

In the house of mm, there were many pets.

One of them is『Stork』. A giant golden bird of 2 metres width when wings spread out. It is near to Phoenix.

He had completely golden feathers and beak, and was the head of all pets who destroyed the insides of house while using it as a pasture land.

Moreover naturally, he was not only just some bird, but a great demon.....The details about it and other pets, let's leave them for a later date.

Anyhow.....judging from the scent of magical power and it's appearance, no doubt, it's his.

I can smell the scent of Stork and Mom both. So she enclosed this feather as a proof of evidence at required times.

Incidentally, there can't be a case that she picked them up somewhere while he was flapping his wings.

I don't know what the reason for this is, but unless the person himself(bird himself), Stork, takes out the wings, they would turn into beds of golden light and disappear.

And, inside the letter enclosed in the envelope,

『This fox-eared girl here is, you're older-sister, 4th from above you. Get along with her』

was that written in mom's handwriting.

Aside from the sentence being somewhat childish, this too made me convinced.

Looks like Noel-san really is my sister.

And this letter was delivered by Stork some days before, mom asked her to help me, who would soon be reaching the city -while not being overprotective-in another letter, and told in that to use this letter for the proof.

.....So in other words, Noel-san, no, Noel-neesan prepared this more than 100 gold coins worth of thing, for encouraging her brother.

No, still I can't believe it. Even if she is a relative, I can trust without batting an eye.

「You're sharp. Even I won't give something more than 100 gold coins for no reason to my own brother, it takes 1 month to be made. I didn't had any pre-made ones too.」

「Eh? Then, this is.....」

1 month ago means, me still remaining in that house.

So, this is not a pass made specially for me.....

「Frankly put. This was ordered by that idiot who got thrown in the prison some days ago. He must've thought of using this for shady business. It's good that he got arrested quickly.」

That idiot, you say.....Ah, that guy who threw ELk in debt cycle.

Right now, he is waiting for trial while healing his snapped muscles body, resulted by me, but it would most likely be death penalty, or so the human rumours reception antenna, Tanya-chan was saying.

He was doing slave trading and illegal dealings, so it's the perfect reward for him.

Furthermore, the trials come faster in this world.

[ET: Why isn't that possible in this world?]

At the fastest, it would be 1 day later for judgement, moreover, depending on charges the privilege of appealing to higher courts can be retained. As expected of Swords & Magic Filled World.

Most probably, by the start of next month, most of his subordinates wouldn't be present in this world.

I indirectly drove them away, in other words killed them.....this strange ethical values, have already been reformed during the time I lived with mom in Western-Style house. I have did the dealing of life against thieves

as opponents, many times.

Still, I most of times, hold back my power and make others faint, and let them be judged by law, maybe the traces of previous life's ethics are still remaining.

.....The talk got derailed.

This pass ordered by that mom for unknown reasons reached here, the orderer, is persistent but most probably will be saying goodbye~ to this world next month. So it's unnecessary,huh.

Even so,due to this pass's importance and rarity, it is prohibited for it to be stored in the『Inventory』. If there is no one to buy it, then it would be disposed of.

At that point, I -A relative, she could trust due to Mom's certified documents-appeared, so she thought to give it to me, as a present for me becoming an adventurer.

.....Though she explained it, but it still feels too simple.

「Umm, will it be alright? If a rookie adventurer like me get something like this」

「It's fine, It's fine? I have gotten written proof that I can『Trust you』 and.....」

Noel-san, makes a fleeting glance towards Elk, sitting besides me.

「It will also be as an apology towards Elk-chan, who is getting intimate with Minato-han. Just take it from a stupid Sister. But if it's used for evil purposes, I'm gonna take it back」

「Sigh.....Then, I'll take up that offer」

And well, that's how, I got a ultra-high class item of more than 100 gold coins, called as『Black Pass』.

Having my area of activities expanded, and getting various special privileges, my purse has gotten healthier.

And.....I once again gained one more『Black』thing. Is this some sort of karma or fate?

She said that by putting the guild card inside the case, the『Owner Authentication』would be complete, so I did as she said.

When I did, the pass twice as big as guild card, shrank in size like the vacuum futon storage pack while having the designs it became the same size as that of card.

Rather than saying it looked like a card inserted in case, it became like a card decorated with seals and stickers. But, there isn't any roughness on the surface neither did it create any difference in weight.

There isn't any problem in the information browsing area too. Just like Noel-san said, it can be used normally.

I already get an awesome item, after becoming an adventurer just some days before, Yeah I'm just a great existence.

「Don't worry about it much. In the first place, this『Pass Case』, does has trouble getting it requested, but with some money no obstacles will come. Many nobles of big persons have them made for their families with the abuse of their authorities.」

「Eh? Is that so?」

「Yeah. Don't be conceited, but take it without any problem. Well the things those people took was mostly silver or gold only」

「Silver? Gold?」

「Based on Pass's design and color, the service you get changes. Gold is above Silver, and Platinum is above Gold like that. Just like that the expiration date too is increased.」

I see, easy to understand.

So, this pass got an expiration date.

Well there ain't something like a commuter pass that works for eternity, so it's only normal and appropriate.

Huh? This is『Black』.....what would this mean?

「The person with『Black Pass』get's indefinite service. Feel free to use till the day you die.」

「.....It would be better to not show it off, right?」

「Well, yeah right」

What the freaking shit you giving me for your ex-post-facto approval.

「Iya~, you really saved me. I can't keep up with the safeguarding of this thing. Before it got authenticated, many people tried to buy it saying『Sell it to me』and some even tried to steal. It's good that you are taking it away from me」

Her real intentions are gushing out, should I retort here?

No, well, it's a fact that I would take many favors from her in future, so let's bear with it.

The beautiful fox girl with cream coloured hair and fox ears -She only looks somewhat older than me, but what is her real age?- reveals a smile while her two canines peek out of her mouth. Well, it's cute, let's see it.

Chapter 22 Part 2

After that, I took a small explanation on how to use the『Pass』, and then she would have to take a leave by saying that her work was calling.

Even though she looks like a little girl, she is at the top of a big association, no wonder she is busy.

When we were returning, Noel-san called out as though she remembered something.

「Ah Minato, everything today ended in a haste, but normally I'm doing the work of the association perfectly, so do come when you need something? I can do anything from wholesale of medicines to the making of custom-made equipments」

Maybe she understood our mutual relation of siblings, she has changed calling me『Minato-han』to『Minato』and told me that.

I see so that's how it is? Then I will take favors from you in future.

After all, the association was certified by mom, and the manager is my sister(I just knew it today). I had thought of finding a new weapon shop that I become a regular at, but unexpectedly there was a godsend for me.

Or rather, I have something I am thinking about right now, maybe, I need to take favors from her pretty soon.

This and, this, and that too.....I will come after I have them all.

「And」

And? Noel-neesan

「If you're going to live as an adventurer, then you will travel various places around the world. Maybe you will meet other brothers and sisters of yours at those places. At that time, rely on me without any hesitation! Though there are siblings with bad and good personalities, but in the end they're all siblings」

When she said something filled with warmth, I suddenly noticed it,

.....Now that I think about it,

「I have one thing to ask, Noel-neesan」

「Hm?」

「I had thinking of asking from a long time before, but.....Just how many brothers and sisters do I have above me?」

Mom only told I had many siblings during the time at home, nothing more.

I don't think it's something you can forget. But what if she gave birth to many that she can't count now.....Yea~h.....

But, I recall Noel-neesan introducing herself as『4th daughter』some minutes ago.

And she just said that『Maybe you will meet other brothers and sisters of yours at those places』.

I can somewhat guess, that there are many brothers and sisters I have.

In that case, is it something like large family of 5 men and 6 girls? Yeah, it's my mom were talking about, nothing's' impossible.

「Ah, didn't mom told you? If I am not mistaken, including you, it would be err.....」

No, it's not really bad to have a family that can make a complete baseball team.....let's be prepared.

She is a『Succubus』after all, so it's natural for that field of work to be more, so how many brother and sisters above me do I have.....

「11 man and 15 woman, in total 26 siblings. Minato, you should be the youngest」

I was naive.

I was naive to the point, of a dinner dish made with sugar and brown sugar put in it thinking they were salt and pepper.

Let alone a single soccer team, with this number there can be two teams with 2 substitutes for every player, truly unexpected.....



The black colored carriage, once again travelled through the road taking Minato and Elk back to inn.

Noel waved her hands humbly while seeing off the carriage. The moment carriage disappeared in the corner of road, she ran quickly back to her room.

And, the moment she closed the door behind her with a slam,

From her face.....the smile vanished.

Though it didn't change her cute facial looks. However from her face, was coming a really sharp feeling of intimidation, rather than the gentle feelings from some time before.

It's not that she narrowed her eyes, neither did she frown, but the glint in her eye was enough to even make an amateur realize that she's not an ordinary person.

Then, she issued an order to her secretary, who had been waiting for

long.

With a short『Yes』the secretary responded, walked into the next room, and came back soon enough.

The secretary was holding a big transparent tablet made of crystal.

If Minato could see this scene, he would've gotten the impression of the terminal screen of an HDTV taken out.

After putting the tablet on the large table in the centre of the room, Noel walks up to it, mumbles a few words, and puts a『Card』on it.

This『Card』was something.....she retrieved before coming here.

When she does, some scribbling.....some sort of information appears on it as though it were an LCD.

Noel kept silent seeing it, after a while, she opened her mouth little by little.

「.....Geez, it's nothing new that mom has no integrity. But this time she has made something really great」

「Is it about Minato-dono?」

「That's right. When I got the letter from mom recently.....2 months ago,

I couldn't think what it meant, but after seeing it with my eyes, I can now truly understand. What is that monster」

Remembering, the face of youngest brother she was dealing with a smile, she faintly smiles and says as such.

The thing that appeared on the crystal tablet was, the simplified yet detailed observation details of Minato's internal and external magical power.

The one who changed that observation into data was, the observation and receiver device placed beforehand, in the room next to this one. The thing that was needed to read the information, was the『Card』from before.

The『Card』makes it possible to carry the collected information, and is used as an intermediary for reading the information through the crystal tablet.

.....Furthermore,

She had inserted a magic item for gaining even more detailed information, into the『Black Pass』she gave to Minato before.

Noel who had gained simplified information through those two steps from before and was astonished at the information shown on the tablet.

She had given him the『Pass』with the intention of『Observation』..... correction『Surveillance』.

Naturally, this pass wasn't ordered by the fraud criminal, but Noel herself ordered it, as it was written in the letter which also had the fees for it, 300 gold.

Including the line that she got the letter from Lilyn some days ago, it's all a big big lie.

It wasn't a normal pass.....it has the device for observing the magical power, and many other devices inserted into it. There are not more than 2 of its kind in this world, a specially custom-made product. That was, the『Pass』from before.

The secretary who was standing besides her calls out to Noel who was looking at the information gathered through it with a serious face.

「How was he? How did Minato-dono seem to you Noel-sama?」

「.....I had seen him during the fight before.....he is good enough in regards to battle powers to get passing marks for that.

He wouldn't lose even if the people were ten times more, it won't change anything to him. The so-called big-serpent he killed, was also most probably done in easily, completely different from the rumours.」

Her face changes to somewhat unpleasant expression,

「The evaluation for his fighting style and personality is put on hold for

a while」

「Any problems?」

「Any, lot of problems. Ah, right now that was not a joke?」

「I know, the problem might be? Is it the fighting skills and magic he use? May i know, what the problem might be?」

「.....No, there isn't any problem in that place. His magic and skills are both first class products.....but, before that, his『Stance』in itself is kinda.....」

Noel heaves a sigh*haa*, takes her eyes off the crystal tablet and sits on sofa besides her.

There isn't any frown on her brows, but a shadow is descending/ casted on them.

「Simply, he has lot of self-confidence in the strength of his body. He doesn't dodge the attacks of enemies, and take them head on, he has showed that『performance』in fights. That and, he did something similar in the『Labyrinth』too」

「I see.....that is a problem. Agility and Certainty is need when fighting the demons. Sometimes, it's need to be fighting with cold-heart without playing. If someone were to neglect that and take their strength for granted.....」

「Hm? Ah, no, I didn't mean it like that」

「Yes?」

To Noel's intervention the secretary replied with curious look. As though saying, where did I get wrong, that.

「He's not taking his strength for granted, and neither making mistakes in his judgement? Well, it's not he is always on guard, he infers the magical power of opponent and magic too, then only does he do his work like this, he adapts as necessary」

「Is that so?」

「Or rather, if he wins in the end, there isn't anyone to complain his way of fighting. Let it be he fights while waiting, or he fights while holding back, or while looking away, or while thinking, or while talking in middle, or while muttering or even while taking others attacks.....if he completes his goal in end, a complaint by an outsider would be rude」

『If he makes a mistakes, it's his own fault』, Noel clearly says that.

To the secretary making a face saying, Then what is the problem, Noel replies with『But』and continues while making her eyes narrow.

「.....It's no problem if he chose to fight like that. I too, don't have any reason to complain. However.....the problem is that if he didn't choose it」

「If he didn't choose it?」

「That's right.It won't be good if he becomes just like mom in her younger days, a『Daydreamer』. Certainly, he is an idiot guy who is always being looked after by somewhere, someone.」

Saying that, Noel takes the card put on the crystal tablet off, and puts it into her bosom.

Soon after, the information from above the crystal tablet disappears and returns to being colorless and transparent.

Noel, walks up to her desk, and puts the card inside the drawer.

And recalled, the fight of Minato she was seeing yesterday while hiding in shadows.

In that there were too many things that attracted her.

The body which doesn't get burned even with fire, legs that can electrify, the mysterious magic to enhance someone else, etc.....

However, the things that she concerned about most is, those『Eyes』.

Not having fun with fighting, violence.

Still, not isn't being disappointed.

Not having resolution, nor hesitation.

His eyes are objective to a tremendous extent.

As if the fight was, a scene on a theatre play or drawing made on the page.

His eyes are like that of a theatre play actor, who knows he would have to fight here.

Fortunately, he doesn't think he is a chosen one. But, that in turn accelerates another problem.

It had close resemblance to her mom's heroic saga.....『Daydreamer』 she told once, thinking that Noel frowned.

(But, Minato's eyes just now were somewhat better.....did he get some trigger for it? To want to face the world seriously.....)

Noel, who doesn't even know what happened yesterday's night, won't be able to get a clue, but soon enough she stopped thinking.

The thing known as『Daydreamer』is not a easy, and a weak thing, that she would feel relief with his eyes changed a bit only.

It was precisely because her mom knew that, that she requested the『Surveillance』and『Teaching』of her youngest brother.

Different from what Minato recognises and has heard about『Daydreamer』, Noel knows the『Real meaning』of that word, the danger of that thing, and so she frowns.

「For the time being just wait-and-see. I cannot guess how he would grow from now on」

「Understood. Then, as you wish」

After bowing saying that, secretary left the room.

For becoming a help for its master who has taken a troublesome job once again.

.....However, that secretary has not realized it.

The contents Noel talked about were all truth. It's true that there is a problem with his『Stance』, his future might change on the way he is guided from now on.

However, that is all about his way of thinking or personality, the things that occur on the『Interior』.

Strong persisting interacting is needed,

.....but, in that case, why is the observation of『Magical Power』needed?

The『Pass』she handed, and the『Card』she put in drawer, are in no way related to personality, rather they are used to measure the quantity and attribute of『Magical Power』. No matter how much information she needed, this was way too out of line.

The reason.....Only her mom who wrote the letter, and Noel who is following her mother's orders, know about.

Noel, confirmed that after seeing the information on the crystal tablet.....right now, in the room she was alone and,

「Really, what does this mean, mom.....?」

She heaved a sigh while remembering a certain information on the crystal tablet.

Chapter 23 – Rank and Call

One morning.

In the vacant lands outside of Volka City.

「Yes, I'm beat」

「Au!？」

Holding a dagger (for training), making sharp turns Elk jumped at me, I attacked her incoming leg.....that's what I thought, but Elk skillfully dodged it.

However, due to the trajectory before her jumping my elbow accidentally came cutting right in, hit the solar plexus, and Elk crashed down.

「That's why during the evasion of an attack any careless jumping is prohibited. Especially if the opponent is agile and has great maneuvering ability. You have start your next action the moment you land on surface. While the time you're in air, basically unless you use floating magic, you can't evade attacks」

「That is.....Keho(*cough)! I do know that, but my body moved on it's own」

「Well, there's no choice other than letting your body learn it over time. Let's be patient」

「I see.....Once again!」

Well, roughly it's like this.

This is the daily routine of us both recently.

We wake up early in morning, wash our faces, get dressed, come to this vacant land, complete the warming-up exercises and then do sparring as called we called it, morning training.

Even though I say that, this is training for『Elk』only, it's somewhat inefficient for it to become my training.

In the afternoon of the day I met Noel-neesan and took the『Pass』from her.

After returning to the inn, Elk requested me with a docile expression. 『I want to train』.

In short, she is happy that I have made a team with her, and it's an honor for her that I trust her, but the current her and me are not a good match.

She didn't want to remain a comrade in name only, neither did she want to only keep on relying on me.

She didn't want to be a hindrance to me, while going to various danger

area or while doing various other quotes, so she wanted to get strong.

Well, I thought her ambition is good, and also hesitated in rejecting her feelings, so i agreed to her.

Though I had rejected her before by saying I can't teach, still I'm here training with her.

This type of mock battle training is being done everyday.

We're doing somewhat a real battle, so even if the time is less the things she could are more, including that she learns more while harvesting and exploration, and presents them all here in this『Training』.

[AK: dont get the part... does it mean she knew minato dont or she knew more after training...]

[ET: It means she learns in the training and she also learns it during doing quests and whatnot. She even presents the new things she learnt in the quests and whatnot section during training.]

The portion she learnt there is presented here, gets improvement scores, continues training.....this cycle is running.

This is the way of training I did with mom. The only thing I could refer to.

But of course, in my case it was a battle royal between mom's sparring

and demons of forest. That spar was a ultra-serious battle of about 30 min~ 1 hour long.

By the way, the monsters hunted, were either served as food in that day's dinner, or stored in pantry as preserved foods, otherwise they would be given as fodder to many pets mom had.

In this training too, I can feel like Elk is getting stronger time to time.

Although it's only my feeling while fighting her.



After the sparring is completed, during the time Elk is cooling down while reviewing her results, this is the time I enter my training.

Though, it's only weight and shadow training only.

It's my daily routine since the time from western-style house. Just in case, I'm doing it everyday.

My physical strength is more than enough, so for it to not decline, I have devised a scheme in my training.....to be honest, I can't call this training to be efficient.

In truth recently –or rather, from somewhat before I left the house– , I don't feel pain or anything doing push-ups or sit-ups.

Aside from maintaining the current condition, to get more stronger I need more harsher training, I can increase the number of times of my current training but it would increase my time, and also I have no other way too.....

「That, can't you do something about your habit of leaking out what you think?」

「Hm?」

Suddenly a voice from behind hits me.

There Elk is standing while sending her beautiful reproachful stares at me. Not good Not good, looks like I leaked out my words again.

And, the clothes she is wearing is different from her usual ones, no I haven't seen her wearing it at all.

「.....? What happened?」

「No, it's just that those clothes suit you」

「R-Really? Well, Yeah, Thank you」

Right now, what Elk is wearing, or rather is equipped with is not what she usually wears, the memento of her mother + low quality ready-made clothes.....but, everything she is wearing is a brand new, order-made goods.

The hemp cloth with a feeling of oldness, has changed to a healthy and clean cloth. Its texture too is different.

On her waist is another new robust looking leather belt.

And there is also the memento of her mother, that『Dagger』.

More than anything the main fascinating thing made with fine quality high grade substance is the armor.

Though it's an armor, it isn't something massive.

It's a light armor. This covers the minimum important parts and helps in not restricting movement.

In my previous life's RPG, only thieves would wear armor like that.

This refreshing green colored armor is, yes, something we requested Noel-nee san and ordered it at some trusted armor shop. It's made from the scales and skin of the big-serpent –It's got its official name『Naga』 now– and also other materials.

At that time she had said「Just tell me if you need weapon, armor, custom-made article, everything is OK」, so I took her offer.

As expected, making custom-made armors and other things from monsters raw materials is popular among adventurers, so when we took

our raw materials the shopkeeper admired the high level of the materials and full-heartedly started making it.

Along with that, we ordered other things to be made too, but that's for some later date.

And, Noel-nee san who acted as intermediary between the manufacturers, told us that the same type of articles in market cannot be compared to our articles. It's weight is not more than a feather, but it's hardness, strength and the pure iron inserted inside it cannot be broken easily. Demon raw materials are really awesome.

Incidentally, using the skin without scales, we had them to be processed into clothes like undergarments.

At one glance, each and every is first-class goods that that a rookie adventurer would is not fated to get, only a veteran adventurer might be able to get them.

Yeah, it does look great on her.

But, the scales and skin of『Naga』were both green. After the manufacturing, it became even more bright.

Inevitably, Elk's armor and clothes are both green.

And, Elk's hair and eyes too are green, so after me being『Man In Black』, this time Elk is becoming『Woman In Green』.....but like I care

Well her clothes are green, her armor made from scales is dark green almost black you can say.....there is not much difference in the hue, so it's alright, probably.

Incidentally, for them brand new equipments, the required money was given by me to her as a loan.

At first I had thought of distributing the reward from『Naga』taking in the consideration of her financial conditions, this time it wasn't on whim, but stubbornly Elk didn't accept it.

She said『You defeated it 100% that's why it's all yours. If you want to team up with me, then do that work perfectly』. Well it's something like her personality.

That's why, with interest rate I lend her the money.....though I'm praying that she forgets about it by the expiration date.

After all, though it's needed, but I don't want to do money lending and borrowing between friends.

It's more natural to think of it as a present from a man to a woman, at least for me.

Elk was against the me offering the raw materials to be made into equipments, but this time I won.

I just said, If you're going to team with me, then you should have equipment that I can rest assured that you will be safe.

She, who doesn't think it's good to rely on me, naturally didn't made a good face at my request, but there wasn't any problem in my request.

It's natural to think, that the other party who is going to be your partner should also have even if a little high survival rate. Even if it's said to be overprotective.

And, when it was made,

「~~~~♪」

.....She seemed really happy.

The green colored armor equipped on the arms and shoulder, and the clothes covering the body.

After all, as an adventurer, she must've have more or less admired these kind of equipments.

Elk realized my eyesight looking at her with glitter in eyes, did get startled as bit, but without explaining or anything just turned around.

「W, Well I still think it's beyond my means to normally get it.....but yeah I'm happy. Since the raw materials are high-class, so it would increase the survival rate」

「Yeah Yeah, it's fine if you even think that」

Like that for a while, while Elk was getting rid of sweat from training, she looked at her right-now-praised equipment with glittering eyes. Whatever she says, in the end she does like it.

Maybe, the cooling down exercises are some sort of stretching exercise, but to me it's only looks like she's making a pose.

The action of the diligent and beautiful Elk in a perfect costume of both hue and design, looks like a fashion show to me.

It has been 16 years and some months since I came to this world, the memories and sense of values deeply rooted into me, cannot help but look at the attire of adventurers as some sort of cosplay.

Though it's imprudent to say, but. Let me declare! It's a sight for sore eyes!

While I was thinking this and that, before I knew it Elk stared at me with reproachful eyes. Huh, did I again leak it out from mouth?

「Anyone would be worried, if you make a triumphant pose with a satisfied expression while looking at someone」

.....Looks like I need to care of some bad habits inside me.

Anyway, while coversating like that we both completed the preparation, and decided to return to City of Volca.

after we had our breakfast there, for some reason, we both needed to go to adventurer guild.



It has been almost two weeks since we defeated『Naga』.

We didn't had to do much other than giving information, getting the money and taking the raw materials of『Naga』.

Incidentally, I asked whether we could get all the raw materials of Naga to the person in charge, who by coincidence was Riin-san. She said normally we would get it but this time it's different.

After all, this『Naga』is an unidentified new demon.

In this case, it would be sent to the guild's and country's various research institutions as a sample for research.

Well, even if I got it all it wouldn't be used up by me alone, on the contrary the reward for the parts would be paid with cash.

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「Hello, good morning.....oh,it's you again Riin-san」

「Oh, are you unsatisfied with me?」

The familiar receptionist Riin-san says as such while positioning her glasses with finger with a not so interesting face(She's normally cool, so it's hard to guess her facial expressions).

「No, I didn't mean it like that.....something like, it felt like it's not only coincidence to meet you every time」

「Yeah, I too haven't seen you talking to any other guild personnel other than this person」

Is there a system that the person in charge of your registration will after that keep on continuing various other supports too? Or else, doesn Riin-san has some exclusive work of observing us?

[ET: The secretary is still of he/she/it gender. So maybe she is the secretary]

「There is nothing like that, even I'm surprised. Well then, what might be your work today?」

「Ah, Yes. We need to update the Guild Card」

Yes, the『Guild Card Update』. This is today's work.

The『Guild Card』a.k.a ID card.....is always updated upon completing the quests or getting achievements during exploration. The whole information is overwritten.

The progress report of quests, their rate of success and failure, achievements of past, information like those are written inside Guild Card.

When asked whether it could be visible, it would be refused.

That『Update』is always being done behind the reception windows, but exceptionally, there are also those who are called for updating their cards.

The『Naga』's extermination is the so-called exception. Just like I said before,『Naga』is an unidentified monster. It's strength and evaluation of my way to defeat it is still not defined.

Since the evaluation cannot be easily given, the guild held a discussion on『Naga』's fighting strength, rank, evaluation in the way of defeating.

Because it's result came out, based on the situation though, it is supposed to be reflected on our cards.

I give the card to Riin-san for update, but.....it will take somewhat time to be completed.

For killing the time it would take, I and Elk left the place.

We stood before the bulletin board with the quests put on it.....
a.k.a『Board』.

In truth, I had been thinking to my first『quest』ever, also the first quest after teaming up with Elk.

For using the waiting time, we came here to take on the quests.

There are many quests put up here, not like I have taken even one.

The boards are separated based on ranks. Just like we had decided beforehand, we stand in front of Rank『E』board, and start staring at the Quest List.

This is something decided by taking Elk's rank into consideration.

Normally, the quests taken should be matching your own rank, and my rank after becoming an adventurer recently is『F』. It might be me singing my own praises, but these quests which even Elk can do without breaking a sweat, is something not suitable for me.

But, if I took a Quest based on my level, then it would put Elk in danger, so it's decided to go with Elk's rank.

「You would get really bored, is it still fine?」

「It's fine It's fine. It's okay for the first one to be like this」

Once again singing my own praises, but an easy to do quest is best.

Well then, what might be the recommended quests.....Whoa, there are many.

○Collection of medicinal plants

Place: Plains of East Volca

Reward:3 Silver Coins (It might change based on the quantity and quality of delivered goods)

○Subjugation of Stray Wolves

Place: Outskirts of Volca. Subjugate at the very least more than 5.

Reward:5 Silver Coins

○Guarding an excursion

Guarding the excursion as well as ensuring safety of students

Reward:5 Silver Coins (It might change based on danger, salary, etc)

○Escort Dealer Group (one way)

From Volca to Listal. Fixed number of 5. First-come-first served basis.
Can be selected beforehand

Reward:15 Silver Coins

Ye~ah. There are many.

The contents too are various.....some though are like part-time jobs, but well, so this is all for a novice barely graduating rank『E』adventurer.

As for medicinal plants, it would work somehow if I know how they look like. It's not much difficult even for me, if I don't get lost.

Wolf is, the same wolf-ish thing inside『Labyrinth』. This too is easy.

Guarding the excursion. It suddenly smells of part-time job.

It's easy, but this『ensuring safety of students』says that I would have to take care of students too.

I'm not good with children.....

Escorting the dealer group.....it has the highest pay, but it's restraint period is really long.

Or rather where is this Listal? I don't know since I don't have a map for here.

Well it's Rank E, so it shouldn't be that far nor that severe quest.

If I would choose then, Yeah.....let's go with this『Wolf』.

In this case, I clearly know the identity of the subjugation target.

Upon asking Elk, I get『Isn't it fine?』as the answer. Alright, then it's selected.

I take out the quest document for accepting it, just then a voice calling us comes from the reception desk, maybe the update is done. Nice Timing.

We both head towards the reception desk, and Riin-san hands over the updated Guild Card.

It's appearance is not much different.....I take it in my hands, and check the information written on it and.....Woah!!

Ooo!

Looks like it went up a lot!? Even though it was F just some time before.

「It looks like you're surprised.....but, it's only the natural evaluation, I think? After all, that『Naga』you both subjugated as been given the rank A」

「No, umm, that.....I got help due to many coincidences, rather I did explain it, right?」

「Taking that into consideration, that is the given rank. It was decided that you have the ability to come up to here. Furthermore, you're superhuman strength seems like a truth」

I got said those words from Riin-san along with a sigh.

I don't know how it spread, but the rumour made by that evil secretary that the『Man in black defeated it using the cave-in』spread out really fast, so I used it during the interrogation.

And that's how I evaded the Guild.

It's still fast to let my name spread, so we both fabricated the information and told the guild.

The place I hit it with『Megaton Punch』was seriously dented, so we evaded it somehow saying it got hit with a large rock. Based on appearance, it would definitely become like that.

The places I hit with electricity and fire were somewhat burnt, we evaded it saying, it was dealt by throwing the torches on the wall.

In truth I am a rookie adventurer, and with those words most believed it. Huge Success.

.....There are still some people not believing it, for example Riin-san and many others.

However, many witnessed me carrying『Naga』wrapped on pole, so I couldn't make excuses here. It couldn't be helped.

And so, I just said that『I have more power than normal people』and evaded it.

For them it's only somewhat more physical strength.

Well, that's how I defeated (fabricated) Naga.....even so, I got the evaluation that my rank rose up to B.

It's not like I'm not happy with good evaluation, but it's not good to becoming great suddenly. After all there is a saying, the nail that sticks out gets hammered in.

At the very least, it should happen after I get used to the adventurer lifestyle.

「You've completed a great feat. It's never heard of that a rookie

adventurer reached rank B in just 2 weeks from the debut date.
Furthermore, more than half of it was the time taken to evaluate」

「You're right..... Um, Riin-san, isn't this just too much? I'm only a rookie adventurer with 2 weeks experience?」

「What are you saying. To me, it looks like this also is insufficient」

Riin-san says while being surprised. Eh, is that true?

Maybe I am making a face that needs explanation, Riin-san opens her mouth.

According to her, in this world, the normal opinion of people is that the person who fights solely by themselves can fight against demons of same level or lower level.

That is, when fighting with some room for composure. Well it's only natural, after all it's a life-risking 1 round battle.

Of course, the situation during fights is influenced by luck sometimes.....as the rank goes up, it becomes difficult to differentiate between demons and adventurer as both are monsters at that point.

And taking, that『I got lucky』into consideration, my rank is set to B.

「That is true.....but have you forgotten that you two delivered large amount of raw materials of『Little Beast』and『Mad Monkey』? It's also a

target for evaluation?」

「.....Ah」

Shit, there was a blind spot.

Well, if I bring the raw materials of demons of Rank D or C, it's natural to be taken into consideration. Why didn't mind work.

One part of that is reflected in Elk's card, because of that she has reached rank D.

The person herself said『I hadn't done anything!』and is being amazed.

Now now, isn't it fine to train hard to become of same level as the rank.

However, what would happen if they find out that I easily defeated『Naga』. I won't say it, definitely.

「There are various thing I personally find interesting, but with the formalities done, you both will be this rank from now on. Let it be because the luck helped greatly, but you have left a great achievement after all.....and that's how it is」

Ah, she's definitely not believing me.

Maybe because she has met me many times that she caught

something, or she was sharp from before, but she's certainly doubting. Riin-san's reproachful gaze.

But, it's my favorite! Thanks for the food!!

「.....Idiot」

I ignored the cold retort from Elk,

Well, She's an employee of public institution, so I doubt she would spread it everywhere.....for the time being, there is no advantage in continuing this talk.

And, from what Elk told me before, the approximate basis for ranks are,

F: Rookie

E: Well graduated from being a rookie. However still not an adult.

D: An adult, more or less.

C: The level that can be called as veteran level. This the growth limit for a person without talents.

B: Experienced Talented Person. The realm of people with talent.

A: Prodigy. The person having power that can never be gained through

any way other than miracle.

AA: The Master Class of『Prodigies』. This too is the realm of really great people.

AAA: Hero-class. The people with strength that their name is heard by everyone.

S and more: There is no point in comparing.

It was something like that.

And certainly, the demons rank would also expanded in the same way.

Well, there is no point in grumbling on what has been done. I can only work hard to not fail up to my name.

Pulling myself together, I put the quest document I had been holding since before in front of Riin-san.

Finally, the curtains to my first quest.....

「Ah, then I would take the quest in this document」

「Rejected」

.....Did not open.

Due to the abrupt『NO』as the reply, both of us are perplexed. Eh, Why was it rejected?

「I'm sorry. I've been notified just some time before. In truth, you two have been called, I've been instructed to guide you both to the interior」

「Called?」

Again?

The interrogation for the case with『Naga』should be over lot before. Had I done anything that guild wants me to say?

Hearing that, Riin-san with a somewhat worried face,

「Even I don't know why. It was the order from above」

「Above? Was it a call from someone superior for something personal」

Eh, what is that? I can only feel bad feeling from it.

Isn't this pattern where the an influential person tries to take a newcomer with large future ahead under it's own like a pawn by using authoritative power.

Elk too had thought that, her face is also not so good after all.

Then Riin-san

「Ah, please don't worry.....though it's a private call, but I don't think there would be anything that you two need to be worried about」

「? Is it a trustworthy person?」

「Yeah, after all.....」

One beat later,

「It's the Guild Master of this Guild」

「「.....Eh!?!」」

Chapter 24-Meeting with Guild Master Part 1

Abruptly we were informed that someone had summoned us, that too, not just anyone in guild but it's head『Guild Master』-san did.

If it was someone from upper echelons in the guild, I would've gone back saying half-assed lines like『My stomach hurts』, but I don't want to be on the bad side of the most influential person in guild, so I responded to the summon.

Riin-san couldn't leave her place as a receptionist, so we were introduced to a staff personnel, a girl, then we both were led into the inner parts of guild.

Even so, why were we summoned by some as great like Guild Master? Yeah, I can't think of anything it all.

For a moment, I thought that some problem occurred during the time with『Naga』, but the next moment, I discarded the thought.

For arguments sake, this timing to summon us is just too late, the questioning is done, 『Naga』has been registered as a demon, even the reward has been paid.

I asked Elk, but it was no good.

In fact, in this situation of『Being summoned by Guild Master』, she is

getting nervous stiff from before.

From what I heard before, Guild Master is the most influential person in the guild, during younger days was also a great adventurer, many adventurers admire the Guild Master. Well from this story, the reaction of others is quite normal.

「But, you both are really cool, you're both still young, but Guild Master has still summoned you personally」

And,

The guide girl walking in front said such out of blue.

She is wearing guild uniform, has dark brown short-hair and a cute face. Her body is, places that need to be large are large and.....oh, just forget it.

「Have you completed some amazing feats? Or else, is there some personal relationship?」

「No, if we knew, we wouldn't have any troubles.....」

「It's something out of blue even for us. We're bewildered right now, due to being summoned」

I mean really. Summoning us is fine and all, but at least tell the reason before. Heart and many things need to be prepared.

Even Riin-san said『I haven't been informed too』.

Then,

「I see. I was thinking that, the rumoured black adventurer would be like the hero of fairy tales, living in deep forest, growing and raising tremendous power, and then leaving the place. I was getting excited on this mysterious history」

What is that unnatural guess, which is completely right!?

Creep!? Gross!? What was just now!?

I shudder in front of this staff girl asking me while smiling. The reproachful stares of Elk from behind saying『What is that』, didn't arouse me this time.

Then this time the girl,

「Are you, by any chance his girlfriend?」

——Crap!

Made Elk flustered.

She in front of the spearhead in front of her that appeared without any

prior notice (well, it did notify), she stumbled, it's a cute yet troublesome reaction.

「Wha, I, What are you saying out of blue!? I-I'm just his partner!」

「Huh, so that's what it was? I completely thought you guys would have done what needs to be done.....ah, are you by any chance『Partner』in that sense」

「What!? W-What are you saying.....you trying to tease!?!」

「Oh, you didn't realise it? I'm sorry」

「.....!!」

「Ah, Elk calm down」

I calm down Elk who has become as red as an apple ready to be harvested.

With her anger and shame, reason is about to go into oblivion. With just this much.

Even so, what is wrong with this girl?

She's already passed mischief and being frank, completely rude. What are they thinking, taking people like her as guild members.

Did they send this hateful staff member with some intention? I can't think any reason behind it.

Anyways, I thought to stop the girl and complain her, but she stopped before.

And,

「Go in, this is the office of Guild Mas (door opens) ter」

During talking, she opened the door, and suggested to enter.

.....Is the education of guild staff really fine?

We both were dumfounded at her attitude of entering the room of her superior without any courtesy, while leading guests. But, if it has come to this, now anything can happen.

It wouldn't be good to make other party wait while the door is open, and she would be the one getting rebuked, thinking that we both enter the room.

Of course, I say『Excuse me』while entering.

There is a single old person in the room.

However, not just any old person.

In fact, It's troubling to even call the person an old person.

Around 2 metres tall, dark-skinned, muscular body.

The glint coming from behind the glasses is sharp like a blade, any normal person might even faint from just a stare.

His beard is cut and evened, which increases the intimidating pressure even more, no let me more frank, it's looking like fiend.

No, well I did think the Guild Master would be a male in prime of his life with dignified looks,but this is truly outside my expectations. Truly.

It's almost like this person can still take young un's and still be able to live off as an adventurer. Truly, just great.

He is wearing formal dress, but the black toned clothes, scatter the intimidating air of not a great person, but of someone like GodFather of Mafia.

[ET: I feel embarrassed]

.....This girl might be killed for being rude.

Looking on the side, Elk is somewhat scared, somewhat dumbfounded,

somewhat perplexed. Yeah, whatever her expression might be, I can easily guess what's in her heart right now.

Then, the head of the room while staring at us with the eyes that would give the SFX『Stare』a life in real world——

「I've been waiting, Minato-dono, Elk-dono. I'm the aide of this guild's guild master, my name is Barracks. Nice to meet you」

——correction, the aide, bend perfect 90 degrees and politely greeted us.

No, you ain't the Guild Master!?

I completely thought you were the one with your intimidating air and whatnot, ugh, now I'm feeling disappointed.....

.....It's a secret, that I felt relieved somewhat.

But huh? In that case, isn't the Guild Master missing?

The ones in this room are me, Elk, and this newly-introduced Barracks-san.

.....And also the guide girl, who just now closed the door by kicking the door.

I won't retort to her delinquent behaviour now.

Is the Guild Master still not here?

Then, Barracks-san makes a troubled expression,

「No, Guild Master is already in this room.....」

And tells me that. Just where is that guild master?

I once again survey the surroundings, but there is still only us 4 not anyone else, not even presence of anyone else.

「.....Before that, I apologize for associating with Guild Master's prank, even though you both were summoned」

「「Yes?」」

Prank? What is that, what does it mean? When did we get into it?

No, don't tell me the summon in itself was a joke. In fact, the Guild Master is not here.....

Then, Barracks-san while sighing,

「.....Can you now stop your pranks, and greet the guests politely?」

From behind us both who have『?』floating above our heads, a voice came.

「Ahaha, Sorry Sorry. No well, it's quite interesting even to spectate, so I couldn't help it. Thank you for your hard work, Barracks」

Along with that voice,

The girl who guided us, while we were having questions about the education of guild members, took large strides and came near us.

Lie that, she passed Barracks-san as though it's natural, and stood in front of us.

Eh, What is this, What the fuck, before we had time to think these words, the figure of girl wavered like heat haze.

The next moment, there's a terrifying scene.

The girl who was looking like a normal guild member, has transformed into something that's completely different from before.

A navy blue, three-quarter sleeved clothes with somewhat similar to priest's robe instead of dress. On top of it something like scarf like soft cloth is put on.

The dark brown short hair, turned into olive brown long hair reaching

her waist.

The only things same from before, are the height of her and her baby face, her age too seems the same as our.

In her face –No, in her eyes– is a strange and dignified something present.

Then, she faces us, and while grinning,

「I'm sorry for teasing you both. So yeah, I'm the Guild Master of this guild, Irene. Nice to meet you♪」

That's right, she declared boldly.

Maken no Daydreamer Chapter 24 Part 2

『Irene Gemena/Jemina』

She is the great adventurer, who once in past, bellowed her name through the whole continent, after retiring, she got recommended by majority of people, became the Guild Master of guild, and is right now at this place.

As per rumors, her strength is still present, among the adventurers; her name is known as a Living Legend.

That『Living Legend』is right now in front of my eyes, while sitting on a sofa in really relaxing manner, and a smile is floating on her face.

No matter how you look at it, she doesn't look that much older than us, but though she looks like human, she is surprisingly different; her true age is over 400 years, really scary.

She has already has been doing her job as『Guild Master』for over 150 years, well, this is a true legend. People are more than meets the eye.

Incidentally, the data about her which I just rambled about is what Elk told me.

The expression she showed before –When we entered the room only to find Barracks-san—was because she knew Guild Master is a girl.

It means she was bewildered on『Why man? 』and not on『He's got great intimidating pressure!』

If I only had heard this all talk, though it was from Elk, I wouldn't have believed it, but I have seen the glimpse of that power with my eyes.

The『Girl in Guild Member uniform』to deceive our eyes was Irene-san's illusion magic.

I have learnt the basics to see through illusions, but I wasn't even able to sense anything let alone see through it.

Not even a single gap, I can't help but say it's a perfectly mastered technique. My instincts after seeing that, removed each and every suspicions about her personal history.

More than anything, the aura she is clad in.

It is only fluttering like wind, is imposing yet calm, it certainly feels like full of self-confidence. To speak in words, yeah, it's like the atmosphere that shows the『Expert』of some sort.

There is only one other person I knows of, who can be clad in this sort of aura.

Most probably, nope, no doubt about it, this person is the same as mom.

「Well, don't be so stiff and relax. It's not like I called you here for some formal business」

「Eh, is that so? 」

「Yeah, I just wanted to talk with the supernova-kun whose been in rumors now-a-days」

「Ha, Haa」

Irene-san is like this from before.

However, on the contrary to her frank behavior, I and Elk, both are feeling tension.「It's strange to not talk about something after calling you her, for starters, I give my gratitude to you, regarding the case this time」

「Case this time? 」

「It's not you don't know, right? It's about the『Naga』. Thanks to you both, the casualties were prevented to the people using the beginner dungeon」

「No, well, I'm grateful for your praise, but just like we reported, there was a large part of luck」

I had thought to faultlessly evade her questions, but

Irene-san's corners of mouth curved, she broadly grinned.

Then, she sips the tea from her teacup, while smiling,—

「You don't have to fabricate it here. All because I know, it was 100% your power that defeated it」

「Eh!？」

—Counterattacks with an unexpected reply as though it is natural.

Unknowingly, both me, and Elk who was quiet from before, trembled our body a little bit.

The reply was just too sudden, for a second I thought it might be on her guesses, but the eyes of Irene-san didn't had anything like that. Rather than imploring gaze, it was filled with conviction.

「Well, it really is trouble to stand out all of a sudden. It's quite a good decision. In truth, people without discerning eyes are beautifully getting tricked by your outer appearance」

「Err, no, that.....」

「But, I have read your report, it's quite unbelievable story? I was there at the time of inspection of snake's corpse. Those scales can't be burned by the heat of torch. The big lethal scar and other small scars are too much pinpointed for rocks in a cave-in. It was obviously damage inflicted by a blunt weapon or something corresponding to it」

.....She knows it. She completely knows it!

From her tone of voice it doesn't seem like she intends to condemn us for that, but it's easy to understand her saying『Don't dodge when I know everything』

She ain't bluffing. From her whistling yet strong voice, and her gaze which sees through everything, a rookie adventurer can never turn away. It took me too much to realize that.

Irene-san continued her words facing me, who is having trouble in replying,「But well, rest assured. Though I said that, those people from Inspection group are quite busy and didn't do a close inspection. So publicly, your fabricated story is running.」

「Eh, is that so? 」

Phew safe. I was troubled if the top brass of guild somehow know about our fabricated report.

Well, in that case, we would be summoned more officially.

But, if accepting Irene-san's words, we succeeded in deceiving them. For the time being, it's good to be safe.

Well, it seems like we weren't able to deceive her eyes though.....

「No, in truth, it's not like that」

「Eh? But before, you were there during inspection, you said.....」

「Well that's how it is? But I knew from even before that. That something like that with just big body-frame won't be even worth mentioning for your power」 「What!? Do you mean by that.....? 」

「It's nothing that complicated. I heard it beforehand. From her」

「.....From her? You heard it?」

「Your mother.....Lilyn, I mean」

.....WTF!?

Eh!? What the hell do you mean by that!? Just frigging tell me!?

My personal information.....oh fuck with it for now. Just tell me what she mean by that!?

Irene-san, you were mom's acquaintance!?

「No, more precisely I'm not an acquaintance. After all, we were fellow adventurers who lived together during our active periods. Of course, we were in a team」

For real!?

Fellow adventurer, in other words, her friends from her younger days means. 200 years ago.

Such a big person was a friend with that 'The Epitome of Freedom' mother. Truly, that person is not normal in many meanings.

Let it be with Noel-neesan the other day, let it be this time, just how much well-know is she?

One is the head of great association; one is the head of guild.....people she knows are all not normal.

[ET: Check yourself once, you'll understand it]

Then, from the current information, another unexpected reaction came flying from truly unexpected place.

「.....!? Wha, Please wait a moment, um, err, I-Irene-sama!」

Elk, who turned into a statue who can only consent to words, suddenly revived and shouted. What happened to her?

「Hey, put down the『-sama』suffix. It's something else if this was a public place, though」

「I-I'm sorry. Err.....Guild Master! Um, the party you said you were in your adventurer days, I can only think of one, don't tell me.....」

「Uh, yeah, you're not wrong. It's the one you're thinking」

「B-But, that party is already.....what does it mean that Minato's mom was one member of it, and also you met her recently.....?」

「.....? Umm, what might you two be talking about.....」

I still don't get the contents of the aim for this talk.

Most probably it's that. My nemesis, adventurer's fundamental knowledge, definitely it's involved in the contents of this talk.

There, mom too is somehow involved.

「I see. Seems like Lilyn hasn't told anything about herself to you at all. In other words, Minato-kun, you don't even know about『Wasp Spiders』 too?」

「.....『Wasp Spiders』?」

What is it, never heard of it.

At this moment, a glare saying『For real』from Elk came flying at me. What, is it a really famous story? Like I said before, I don't have common sense.

[ET: I take this sentence in all meanings.]

「You see,『Wasp Spiders』was the name of the party I was in when I was an adventurer. Of course, Lilyn too was affiliated to them」

「Mom was? 」

「Yeah that's right.....Minato-kun, it seems like you really don't know

anything, this is one good opportunity. How about hearing an old-tale?」

Saying that, Irene-san drinks the whole tea from cup and wets her throat.

I somehow knew, the words that's going to come out of her mouth from now, will let me move closer to the mom I don't know yet.

Chapter 25 – The Legend of 『Wasp Spider』

『Wasp Spider』is the name of the legendary party that used to be active around 200 years ago, it seems.

Their achievements are uncountable; they have completed quests taking highest compensation from the state guest of a country. The numbers of them would seem like a joke.

For example, at that point, several hundreds of years had passed since the establishment of 『Adventurer Guild』, but in this world of sword and magic, there were still many places where the humans didn't go to, in other words 『Unknown Lands』, there were many at that time.

Reason was also simple, because there was too much danger, they didn't explore it.

It would've been easy if the whole army of a country moved, but there was neither money nor time, nor composure to do that.

The 『Wasp Spider』had travelled more than half of those 『Unknown lands』during their active period. They spread (sold off) that information in all directions using guild as intermediary, with just that much they had gotten money to buy some countries for themselves.

Furthermore, at some place demons appeared strangely, through their attacks the large country having one hundred million citizens, seriously fell into the state of line between life and death, even the country's whole army wasn't able to handle the assault, it was also difficult to maintain

the line of defense, at that time『Wasp Spider』gallantly came and pushed back the assault of demons. It happened in various places, various times, presently, in many countries, they are being treated as heroes.

There are still many more deeds of them, but the information about the members' of『Wasp Spider』is still a mystery, except for the current guild master, Irene-san.

The things made public current are.....as following.

There were 6 members in total. Everyone was human, furthermore only girls.

Each and every one of them, had battle power rivaling thousand enemies, and had a dazzling sense of justice.

And currently, aside from Irene-san, all others have died.

As for the legendary party, the only known information is just this much.

But still it was deeply-rooted admiration, and the girls under concern had their names and achievements bellowed through the whole world.

.....But, this information is all sh*t crap.

That is something the sole survivor (Big fatty lie) of the party speaks.

And, let me tell you before, that leaving me alone, as I'm oblivious to common sense and knowledge, Elk, who was listening to the whole true story, was getting surprised each time.

「As for the first big lie is, in our『Wasp Spider』there wasn't even a single genuine human member. Like beast-women, vampires, everyone looked like a human but in truth they weren't」

Irene-san, herself is one of them.

She is more or less classified as『Human』, but she's kind of special.

In general she is called as『Resurrection of Ancestors』, her body is that of human, but inside it the power that her ancestors used to have, in other words it's something like『Atavism』.

In the case of Irene-san, her ancestors' were『High Elves』, the powerful tribe even among the elves, she had many other sorts of blood awakened, so though she is classified as human, she has been endowed with different magical power and long life span.

Incidentally the truth of the so-called『Resurrection of Ancestors』is not told the general public.

Like that, Irene-san is said to be the non-human in the『Wasp Spiders』, but the truth is completely different.

Irene-san was the only person who was most near human within『Wasp Spiders』

「Next, we all were basically egoistic and self-centered people, so we didn't had even a speck of sense of justice, that's why we never moved on something like that」

Well, I can agree to this one.

Heroic Tales are mostly made up, sense of justice in that would be more suspicious-looking.Or maybe, my viewpoint is crooked.

But, when she told me the truth of them saving the afore-mentioned country from the invasion of demons, even I got perplexed. The truth was: They won in a lottery within that country, so if the country was to be destroyed they won't get their shares.

No Well, it's a person's own will to participate in wars, not like I have a say there.

「And now the last, this might be the biggest lie. We disbanded『Wasp Spiders』150 years ago, but not even a single member of it has died. All are alive and pimping」

at that secret revelation, Elk almost fell.

「Right now, everyone is doing what they want and living their remaining years of life. We don't interfere with each other, so we don't even know where exactly they all are. Oh, I just said, remaining years of life, but they all won't die before 1000 years」

「S-So that's how it was, I didn't knew about it.....」

Having many shocking truths fired at her, Elk looked at her limits while replacing the information inside her brain and sorting her heart.

Now then, the topic changes, to what I'm interested in most.

「So, one of them was.....」

「Yeah, your mother, Lilyn Quadrille of『Succubus Race』. She was my comrade since before the formation of part.....and also the leader of『Wasp Spiders』」

.....Holy!

I did think she's not some normal person, but for her to be someone this great.

Well, she didn't tell me herself, so I won't know about it.

「That Lilyn, 2 weeks ago came here and said『My youngest son is going to make a debut as adventurer. Take care of him』. At that time, I heard about your characteristics, so hearing about the case of『Naga』, I immediately understood it was you」

「I see. So mom did such a thing.....」

「Yeah, she intruded at 3'o clock in night while I was sleeping, said what she wanted to, subjugated the tea cakes I had prepared, and left like a storm」

「I'm really sorry」

The feeling of respect that came up vanished in thin air.

No, what the f*ck is my mom doing.

However, Irene-san doesn't look like she is worried about it,

「No, no, I don't mind it. On the contrary, I'm relieved that she didn't change even after hundreds of years」

.....So she was like that since 200 years ago too.

Then, as though he was waiting for the right time, Barracks-san brought tea-cakes. Oh, second cup of tea too.

「Well then, let's chat while eating tea-cakes. And also, tell me about her, Lily's life style within these some years」

「Ah, Yes, then I'll take up the offer. If it's alright with you, then can you tell more about mom」

「Yeah, don't worry. I will also tell about her embarrassing times too」

Irene-san cracks a smile.

I got somewhat tensed up, knowing her title, but she is mom's best friend (?), so it's easy to talk to her.

I can spend my time meaningfully, interesting.

「Ah, by the way, those tea-cakes, are the same as the ones Lily ate on that night, they also have the same quantity. You're both parent and child, so maybe your hobbies and thoughts too are identical. You can eat it all without restrain?」

.....She's somewhat troubling, though.

I suddenly look towards Barracks, a stare saying『I'm sorry』cam flying at me.



After that, the flower bloomed on the trouble stories of mom.

Like mom acting like that since 200 years ago, or her moving on her whim and also moving her friends or Irene-san getting troubled by her actions or them both overdoing their evil deeds.

But, when I heard that the reason for the disbanding of『Wasp Spiders』 was the pregnancy of mom, I seriously wanted to dig a hole and bury

myself in it.

Well, the talk about disbanding was brought up many times before, so this acted as a trigger.

From me it was, how I was raised up by her, how was mom during that time, and her messed up deeds.

And, it's embarrassing, but also about me going up on the stairs of adult men unexpectedly when mom attacked me when I was small.

Irene-san laughed sweetly with somewhat reminiscent feeling, every time she heard my talks.

As for me, I also got to know about the not-yet-known side of mom, so it was a quite worthwhile time.

.....Though, the truths were more that I didn't want to hear.

My sole close person, Elk, was an outsider in all those talks, but she looked happy as an adventurer who got to know about a part of the adventure records of legendary party.

While I talked about, my birth and how I was raised, and the forest where I took my daily training, Irene-san laughed.

「Ahahahahaha, I see. Lily only said you were raised in a『Woodland』so I couldn't make out where, but.....of all places it was『Woodlands of

Gradwell』, eh, you're raised in one great place.」

[ET: I couldn't find any other name more similar than Gradwell. Btw, it's one good company.]

「? That place had a name? 」

「Yeah. From what I know, the only woodlands where demons you told, appear is only there. I see I see, so she raised you there」

She guessed the name of forest.....『Woodlands of Gradwell』just from the species of demons I told her, it seems.

Well, mom too told me, the forest is a dangerous place, and I trained there, so this is not much surprising for me.

I suddenly look besides me; Elk is, sending me a glare saying『Eh』as though she saw something unbelievable. Seriously stop it, it's embarrassing.

「Guild Master? Um, that『Woodlands of Gradwell』are.....」

「Yes, what happened, Elk-kun? 」

「Err, I only read in documents, but.....I remember reading, it's a forest of demons located on the farthest ends of this continent, and not some place humans can live in? 」

「Yeah, that's right. After all, it's considered as a forest where one if enters, cannot come out, as for its difficulty level as a dangerous area, it's AA. It's a hell, with average demons there having Rank A. If carelessly approached, even a trained army would go extinct easily」

.....I know it's late, but I got raised in one frigging great place.

「And, the magic circle which threw you into that『Labyrinth』in an instant, isn't magic, but a magic item. During our times in『Wasp Spiders』there was a person who specialized in making things like that, so Lilyn may have asked her」

「Hmm.....」

Like that, me and Irene-san, forgot the tension that was present at first, and ended up in deep talks.

In Elk's case, rather than tension, it seemed like mental fatigue is accumulating.

Before I knew it, it was forenoon.

「Oh, we talked too much. It would be bad if I don't return back to my work now. Barracks, preparations」

「Understood」

Barracks-san left the room bowing once. Maybe for the preparations of

work after this.

「Well then, looks like we have call it a stop now. How about eating lunch here? 」

「Ah, no, we can't receive that much favor」

「And also, we both are having plans to accept quests today after this, so we'll excuse ourselves」

「Hmm, I see. Ah, I called you guys while you were about to take quests」

Then it can't be helped, Irene-san looked like she agreed to it, and got up from the sofa. We two also followed her.

「I don't mind you coming here, if something happens. Based on my position, I can't give you two special privileges as adventurers; you two would also not want it, right? 」

「Yes. After all, Mom is mom, and I am me. I want to live like a normal adventurer, and work my way up steadily」

「Though, you're not『Normal』, at all.」

Yeah, I know.

「That's right, keep up the high-spirits. Well, the ambitions of youngsters

is dazzling for us aged people..... Well, I won't give preferential treatment, but I will help you in consultation, though, so you can come at any time」

「Yes, Thank you very much. Please take care of me from now on」

Elk and me, both give a bow, and left the room.....or at least that's what we had thought,

「Ah, before that, just 3 more」

「Yes?」

But, we got stopped by Irene-san. What is it? 3? Quite strange it is.

「First is, Minato-kun, do you have some kind of goal?」

「Goal, is it?」

「That's right. As an adventurer.....no as a person, you should have a somewhat clear goal; it would help you get motivated more」

I see, I think about that too.

Whatever I do, having a clear goal will help raising the motivation. Establishing that beforehand is always good and efficient.

Now that I think about it, after getting out in the outer world, I have never thought about that and only thought about being an adventurer. Yeah, it was a blind spot.

But, what might be the goal as an adventurer?

「Now that is my main concern, Minato-kun.....」

Then, Irene-san puts her hand inside her robe, and maybe from the inner pocket, took out a single paper.

「I had thought, what if you hadn't decided on any goal. So, I think that you should go with the common goal of every male, that is『To become strong』」

「What is this then? 」

「Yeah, I have a『List』」

「List?」

「Yeah. If you get strong enough to defeat the monsters written there, then even Lilyn would accept you a genuine adult」

well it's all on my point of view, Irene-san adds that at the end.

I see, I'm grateful for it.

For an adventurer, there are other goals too, like exploring unknown lands, or finding legendary treasures, but in an occupation like this, the main thing needed to live on, is absolute『Power』.

Moreover, if it is Irene-san's point of view, it must be true, in other words, motivation come out naturally.

Thank you very much, saying those words I take it. Well well, so what sort of demon is written here..... (flip)

.....

.....

.....Err, just what the hell might this be.

I might be showing an expression, she had already expected. And, also Elk who is looking from side.

I can easily understand it, from her showing a peerlessly sweet smile.

And, this won't be a prank, but what she had actually thought might be good for me. I mean the list.

.....But isn't this.....

- Exceed Hopper Subspecies
- Tropical Tyrant
- Inferno Peacock
- Giga Worm
- Kraken
- Destroyer
- Golden Sphinx
- Mictlan Demon
- Soleil Tiger Rare Species
- Eight-Forked Serpent
- Salamander Undead
- Á Bao A Qu

Finished, 12 species in total.

.....This is array of demons; I neither have heard of nor seen.

Even so, somehow I can feel this line-up is more dangerous than『Naga』.....

In two parts, words like『Subspecies』and『Rare Species』is also added.....

In fact, 『Eight-headed Serpent』and『Kraken』are two monsters, that were f*cking famous even in my previous life.....Do they exist? In this world?

W-Well, it's not like the strength always coincides with the feeling given by name. It's not necessary that the monster will be strong if its name sounds strong.....

But, in this case, they would coincide, right.....

.....Well, my goal is to get strong to fight against them, 『Some day』in late future. For the time being, I will just take it.....

Irene-san, who has been looking at my face which is staring the list,

「.....Now for 2nd,.....Minato-kun, is true that you never stepped out of『Woodlands』?」

「? Yeah it is true.....but why you ask? 」

「No, it's something I've been thinking for a while, I get the feeling I have met you somewhere before.....Though, I don't seem to remember it」

「.....? 」

That..... is not possible?

After all, I really never left that forest. Except for the time I handled the bandits with mom.

Leaving out the bandits that I met (and half-killed), or the girls who were kidnapped, I never knew about other relatives other than mom before leaving the house, and after that, the first one was, Elk.

Well, even if I glanced at them others, but still I don't have any memory of Irene-san at all.

The possibility of Irene-san glancing me while passing by, is also non-existent.

Irene-san hasn't left this area for some years, in the first place, mom would notice her if she did pass us by, after all they are friends for more than 200 years.

And so, in the end, the mystery couldn't be solved.It can be misunderstanding or accidental resemblance, right?

And now, the left last 1 is?

「.....For the last message, Lilyn left a message for you」

Irene-san looked like she still is having suspicions, but she has left it on hold for a while.

「Message?」

「Yeah, it's encouragement to you, who is going to walk on the path as an adventurer」

Err, it is.....She gestures as though, she were trying to recall,

「She said.....『If you ever got strong like me, your mom will get pregnant with your child』」

「Excuse me」

Escape.

While hearing the crackling laughter, I lead Elk by her hand, and leave the room in full speed.

No, well it might be a joke, argh, not that –Like hell I will accept if it ain't joke– , just what is that person to leave a message like that to another person!? Even Elk heard about it!!

And Irene-san! Why would you need to explain that thing in details while Elk —A third party who only knows about mom's incoherent behavior as rumors—is sitting beside me! Read the atmosphere! What are you going to do if Elk starts looking at me in some other manner!

「.....It's alright. Ever since I have looked at your ridiculous ways, I have stopped applying common sense on you」

No, can I be relaxed by that!?

.....At any rate, Mom if I ever commit suicide, it's all because of you.

Minato and Elk left the place without looking back. While one is murmuring『Oh stop! 』with face completely red.

.....maybe it should be, both.

「Ahahaha.....Isn't he quite pure and good child? Though his personality is different.....but he had similar atmosphere to that of Lilyn」

He couldn't hear the murmuring of only person left in room, Irene Jemina ...though he had powerful hearing ability.

「.....Maybe that's why; Lilyn is even using Noel-chan.....and is『worrying』about him」

Chapter 26 – First『Quest』

We both, after returning from the cluttered room in the interior of guild, stood in front of the『Board』from before, for accepting a『Quest』.

And, the quest we chose to took before『Subjugation of stray wolves』 was gone.

What, so they have good turnover rate. I was aiming for it, depressing.

It couldn't be helped, for searching another new quest; I once again faced towards the『Board』.

Then,

「Yo~, are you both adventurers called Minato and Elk?」

「Yes?」

Abruptly, I was called out from behind.

Upon turning back, there stood an unfamiliar, macho-old-man.

I could understand that he too should be an adventurer for being inside guild.

[ET: You sure, Minato, that ain't spooderman?]

Along, with the reason he called us out.

「Is it true? That you both.....subjugated that monster called『Naga』from the labyrinth? 」

「Yeah. Well, we were helped by fortune too」

「No, even so that is awesome. You're too splendid, although young」

.....Following it,

「About that, how about doing work with us one time together? 」

.....Well, as I expected.

It had been a lot recently.

The rumor of me and Elk (To be accurate, it was me only) bringing back the body of the newly found demon.....『Naga』spread out too quickly.

Moreover, the guild has given it a rank A, something a novice adventurer can never fight against, even more troublesome.

『The party of a man in black and a woman with green hair』became the most popular topic.

Due to that, the people who want to meet us have increased.

Because of all this, for some few days, we both left the inn early morning, came back late at the time when there are less people, without coming to the guild – not like we had been summoned, though – , like that our cycle was running, but still there people who would sniff us out.

During eating meals in dining halls, within the inside and outside of city, and at worst people even intruded in the inn.

And, the people who commanded most adventurer within them, moreover almost all of them, tried persuading us saying『Won't you team up with us?』or『Will you enter our team?』, like that.

Well, wanting to court a talented person would be a normal thinking for a person in same occupation.

That so even more, in an occupation like this, which has life and death on-line all relying on the ability.

However, we both just recently teamed up, so we didn't have composure to think about those things, so we turned down all offers. Of course, adding various reasons.

This time too, I respectfully declined.

Even so many times they hanged on saying『Don't be so cold~』or『We

don't mind even if you're rookies』, but eventually we somehow made them pull back.

He seemed to be like a stubborn person, who would come once again if he gets opportunity, but we got him to draw back, so it's better right now. It would be troublesome if someone other came, it would be better to quickly choose the quest and leave the reception.

I faced the board.....and Elk was selecting some conspicuous quests while I was talking. Indeed, she knows how to deal with something.

So well~.....

○Collection of medicinal plants

Place: Plains of East Volca

Reward:3 Silver Coins (It might change based on the quantity and quality of delivered goods)

○Guarding an excursion

Guarding the excursion as well as ensuring safety of students

Reward:5 Silver Coins (It might change based on danger, salary, etc)

○Subjugate the Kobolds

Subjugate Kobold settles within the huts in the interiors of Ritorasu Mountains.

Reward:10 Silver Coins

○Escort Ruin Research Expedition Team

Escort the expedition team, re-investigating the『Labyrinth of Naga』.
For Several Days

Reward:15 Silver Coins (Risk allowance separate)

The 2 above were there before too.....

First of all, I'm not good with kids so, 2nd one kicks the bucket.

The last one is re-investigation of『Labyrinth of Naga』, was this request from some archaeologist?

It was my home in a sense, but this exploration might be searching if there are more hidden rooms.....it might be related to me defeating『Naga』.

Like that, if I, the main leader of this upheaval, the so-called『Adventurer in Black』went, obviously I would get caught into troublesome problems. So, this too rejected.

So the left one is.『Subjugate the Kobolds』.

I would just accept it as a subjugation mission; the conditions for completion too are easy to understand.

I confirm from Elk by looking her, a reply saying『Isn't it fine? 』came back from her eyes.

Alrighty, so we would take this one.

「Though, it would in the end, be a tiring quest for you. Kobolds are Rank E demons, after all」

「No, no, it's not like that. Based on circumstances, it will be a good experience. Probably」

「Same for me. It will be an opportunity to examine the fruits of training I have been doing with you.....Hm? But this, there isn't the required bodies written」

Huh? Then, I wouldn't understand how much I had to kill.

「It must probably mean, killing all present there.....Don't they know the exact numbers? In that case, it would be troubling for the person doing the quest. Sometimes, ones like this are also present」

In this way, we wouldn't be able to know when our quest be completed.

Wouldn't it help by asking at the reception?

「Well, that's true, but we should keep in mind that opponents numbers might be more than expected, right? If we went thinking it would 10 of them, then it would be troubling to encounter 50 or 100 of them.....Well it might easy for you, though」

「No, that will.....surely take more time」

「.....You won't say impossible, huh」

Well, yeah.

I don't know what sort of demon Kobolds are; neither have I seen their appearance, so it would be better to see it.

But, E means, on the same level as that of goblins in『Labyrinth』and below those monkeys. They wouldn't be able to give me a hard fight.

100 would be troublesome.....bare-handed, that is.

But, from the contents of quest, their numbers might be that much which could fit in the hut, so they may not be much.

「Hmm, you're both doing a quite interesting talk?」

Suddenly, I heard such a voice from behind.

We both turn back, to find a man being there.

He was somewhat tall, with reasonably balanced physique.

Orange hair, his face was good, but his ears were pierced.

He didn't have the handsome boy atmosphere. More accurately it should be.....Frivolous lad? Though, his skin ain't black.

He too might be an adventurer, based on his attire.

「I haven't seen you two here, you guys, newbies? You were talking something very reliable, so it piqued my interest」

「.....Who're you? 」

Elk said. Whoa~, her wariness was completely laid out.

And, the frivolous lad, in defiance of it, continues.

「Ah, sorry, sorry, I should do the self-introductions. I'm Zali, more or less I'm an adventurer. Nice to meet ya~」

The frivolous lad.....correction, Zali, cracked a smile while showing his white teeth (glitter☆)

However, Elk still remained unresponsive to that too. No, I do understand her feelings.

His way of interacting was unnatural.....in fact, the fact he wanted to call out to us from start, I can understand that from the start.

Deducting that, he, at first glance looks like a playboy. Elk wouldn't be feeling too good being called out by such a guy.

His motive, maybe the invitation.....or simply flirting.....

「So, you guys seemed troubled while choosing the quests.....Hm? Are you perhaps」

The moment Zali was about to say something looking at me,

「Oi Zali, what'cha doing?」

Oh, they increased.

Along with the cheeky and low voice, 2 men, maybe Zali's acquaintance or something came towards us from his rear.

They looked like middle-aged old mans.

Dark complexion with medium build, and unshaven stern face.

One side was muscular gorilla-macho-man, the other one, an obese with too much fat.

These 2 approached us while we were in the middle of talk with Zali.

「You're getting late, Zali.....huh, so you're flirting, eh?」

「No, no, it's not like that. I just happened to hear something interesting. And, they looked quite troubles, so I called out to them」

Zali replied.

No, we were not basically troubled by it. The contents too might be helped if we went to reception.

Then, the 2 men (middle-aged) looked me and Elk in order.....

「I see, so that's what it was. It can't be helped then」

「Yeah, they're rookies after all. Well, there may be various things to be troubled with」

.....Obviously they have become more talkative, and this ain't my imagination.

They even have a strange smile on their faces.

Then, the person to first open the mouth, was the obese-guy.

「Hey, Miss, if you're troubled, shall we help you?」

They try to persuade Elk alone.....while grinning.

.....Oi, you f*cking ignore me.

「As a rookie, there may be more times to be troubled without knowing what to do, right? In that case, we will teach various things to you」

「That's right, we will teach politely and it will be very detailed」

The gorilla-macho-man to adds himself, and invited her with the ulterior motives spilling out.

Well, how did he get guts to frankly invite like this way.....did he think it would be a success?

In reality, only 'annoyance' word was oozing out of Elk's face.

Naturally, Elk won't nod to their invitation.

「Oh, I remembered, we were also going to take a quest right now, how about, you come together with us?」

「That's a brilliant idea! It would be a good experience, and we would

also help! Hmm? So, how about it? 」

「In the end, I refrain. I even have an acquaintance」

Saying that. My shoulders are touched by Elk.

At that time, for the first time, the middle-aged men look at me.

Oh, here comes the stare saying『Who the fuck is this guy? 』.....You guys really can use you're stares splendidly.

He diverted his eyes from me in a second and,

「This guy? He doesn't seem to reliable, leave it, leave it」

「You'll grow more if you're with veteran adventurers like us, rather than this weak guy, right? 」

「Yeah, we are all Rank D. It won't hurt to look after some rookies? 」

.....You're damn below me!

No, well, generally, Rank D would mean, more or less an『Adult』.

Elk had said before, the level a normal person with efforts can reach is Rank D or C, at most somewhere in the lower B.

So, based on that they might be adults?so what?

AH, by the way, how can I hide it from you, the person who gave rank B was Irene-san. 『You're this much strong, and due to this others won't be able to shun you based on your ranks』, she said that. So like that, I'm suddenly Rank B.

Due to the shamelessness of the middle-aged men, the frivolous lad had his shadow get thinner, so he finally spoke up. His mouth would remain light, I think.

「Hey, Gallon, Bordo, don't say like that, why don't we take him too together?」

「AH? What'cha sayin? 」

Oh? Now this was unexpected.

I completely thought this frivolous lad, Zeli-kun, would go with Elk-only faction.....but he also invited me.

No, not like I'm actually happy.

However, as though natural, the reaction of middle-aged men towards me was negative.

「Oi, Oi, stop joking. Why would we invite a bastard? 」

「That's right. Rookie would only become burden」

Hey, weren't you damn people speaking something like looking over rookies? Huh?

「Well, Well, don't be so cruel. Think normally, the more the merry, right? Furthermore, he isn't that much weak」

Zaril says while not getting carried by the flow. I've got a teeny bit good impression about him now.

But, I'm curious about the contents.

Did he hear my talk with Elk just before? I yes, then from where?

Was it from『100 Kobolds』or somewhere around『Woodlands』et cetera?

There are many adventurers who boast, so I don't think I would need to be worried about each and everyone one, there is no need to be stiff.

Just, if they know about my identity from the rumor about『Adventurer in Black』, it would turn into something messy. Mainly, due to rumors.

While I was thinking all that, the middle-aged men still were having a stare of Elk: Yes, Me: No, and were grumbling.

「But you see, looking over 2 rookie is even a little that for us, right?」

「That's right. And women are different, but men grow by facing the harshness of world, so ain't it a parental affection that we're sending him on a somewhat difficult path?」

.....I don't want to be near these guys.

I understood Elk too was thinking the same thing from her eyes, and we both decided to leave the place with just quest document in hands.

Old-men? Just f*cking leave them alone.

「O-Oi, Wait.....」

「It's fine. I don't know what the quest is, but have fun with your group of three」(Elk)

Elk spaded away the restrain of obese-guy, and left the place.

I heard various other things, but after a clicking of tongues, nothing else was heard.

Either they are good at giving up, or didn't want too much trouble, they, in the end, didn't chase after us.

.....Some time later, there was one who looked for more time at us than

other two, it worried me a bit.

「Seriously, I hate those type of people..... Why are there more adventurers who see women with eyes like that」

「It can be helped right? Well, I won't agree to it, but basically there are more ruffians in this industry. It won't be good to be worried about each and everyone」

「Well, that is right. Then, let's take up the quest already」

While waving the quest document in hands, Elk and I, both moved towards the reception.

Well then, let's take up our first quest『Subjugate the Kobolds』.....really fast!

Chapter 27 – Kobold and Landslide and Egg Part 1

We submitted the quest document to the reception of guild.....maybe because the difference in rank, Riin-san sent me stare saying『Huh?』 – Well I, a rank B adventurer is taking on a rank E quest, it's only natural – , now an hour later.

I and Elk, were ascending the mountain road of『Ritorasu Mountain』 where the hut is located.

The mountain side would come in sometime, so we might be near our destination.

From conclusion, this『Ritorasu Mountain』was more safe compared to the『Labyrinth of Naga』that might sound weird, but in this place there was not much danger from demons.

The demons which appeared, were mostly the ones I had already seen in『Labyrinth』, furthermore, Elk herself took care of most of them.

However only once, a demon appeared which I hadn't seen in『Labyrinth』it was a『Slime』, seeing it I got into high spirits for no damn reason.

A spindle-shaped face with a smile on it.....it wasn't anything like that, but its body was in liquid state centering around its core. It looked just like amoeba.

Its bodily fluids was acid, but everything would be over on throwing a stone from a distance and destroying its core, I still touched it once, but the acid didn't had any effect on my skin. It didn't even feel itchy.

Such being the case, without having faced any serious troubles, we were walking.

「Sigh. The air is so good. It would've been better to have brought a boxed-lunch」

「Stop changing a quest into a picnic」

Elk retorted, as always, in a fed-up voice.

So no good, huh. This scarf could change into picnic sheet, so I thought it was a good idea.

Incidentally, for reaching the hut, we left the path, and were no walking through some woodland path,

「Elk, it's about the time we return, do you happen to remember the way back to the path? Like the direction and all」

「Of course, I'm checking time by time, it's natural that I remember it. Though there is not much danger, but the fact that here is a mountain, losing focus will lead to being lost here.You don't remember?」

「I did try to, but.....not after 5 minutes from entering the mountain」

「.....Ah, I see」

Apparently, I seem to have hardcore problem of having no sense of direction. I may have not been born with it from birth. No, I'm serious here.

Looks like I would have to trouble Elk from now on.

Well, I did remember the path to Guild and『Labyrinth』, but the path to sis『Association』remained to be a mystery.

I made haste into coming here, because there was a possibility of getting lost.....but Elk has expertise in that area, so it wouldn't be a problem.

Incidentally, the path takes a little less than 5 hours on foot, and less than 2 hours on carriage, when coming from guild.

That's why normally, when going to『Ritorasu Mountains』, in case a horse couldn't be hired, many people lodge in inns present in villages en route, or camp en route.

So, the reason why, we both completed the whole distance in an hour even while having lunch en route, is very simple.

I carried Elk and ran while having my leg strength enhanced by the wind magic.

Also, for not letting her feel pain from the wind pressure, I once again used『Other Person Enhancement』to increase her basic physical abilities. She was glued to me, so it was even more easy to activate it.

Even so, she suffered from motion sickness.....well, take it as a part of training.

「What the hell you mean by a part of training!? I was almost going to return the hot dog」

「Well, well, we were rushing, it can't be helped, right. And, maybe in future, you, Elk, will also move by running that fast, so this is practice for it, only a practice」

「A future like that won't come! I'm a normal human!」

「But, you too can use magic, right?」

「No, I do can use it, but that is.....」

Ah, that's right.

I never told it, but in truth, Elk can use somewhat magic. But, it really is somewhat, apparently.

The magic cannot be learnt by training, in the first place, it can't be used at all by a person without talent.

In fact, half of adventurers, are muscle-man faction, with no relation to magic.

Elk had that talent, and specializes in using『Wind』attribute. But only when compared to other attributes.

However, because of her living environment as a child, she didn't had any surplus to study under someone good in that line.

Her mother too wasn't proficient in magic, aside from other techniques, she only learnt basic of basics in magic.

In the end, she couldn't develop her magical talent, gave up on it, and learnt other abilities.

Thanks to that, currently she rarely ever uses magic. At most, she only uses it to ventilate the room and fan herself.

But, from my point of view that is really very much wasteful, I had thought of『Developing』her that area too, so I would include somewhat magic in training.

Fortunately, I had been taught about『Magic Arts』from mom until she drove it into my bones, on the contrary, I myself researched it later on.

Along the way, I created many other new magic which I couldn't use, due to the problem of talent. (*tears*)

And so, if I recall all that, I would be able to teach her about magic, and some of my self-made tricks.

Naturally, they all are limited to the ones that have gotten safety authentication from mom.

That's why, I thought it would be good if she learnt Taijutsu along with Magic, if there was something suited for her, I would teach that too..... that was my plan, so I decided to tell Elk about it,

「Even so, I don't think I would ever reach a level where I can run fast than a carriage and still be not out of breath, just like you I mean.....」

「Is it like that? I think, if Elk trained more you can reach to this level?」

「What is your basis for that?」

「Intuition」

「.....Oh great」

[ET: This is sarcasm]

[AK:Oh great, boss]

Elk gave up, silently.Had she thought, that it would only get tiring

by talking anymore?

But, I seriously am thinking what I'm saying.....

As for why? Let's leave for next time.

Well like that, after walking for a while, we finally reached our destination.

Walking the woodland path, when it felt like it had opened up somewhat, we came out to a place with levelled ground.

There was, a simple yet big, hut.

And it's surrounding, demons with head of dog, walking on two legs..... Kobolds were roaming in several numbers. In their hands were, club or rusted swords.

For the time, we hide in the brushwood nearby to wait and observe them.

I heard at the reception, the exact numbers of Kobold was yet-unknown.

However Kobolds have more intelligence compared goblins or orcs, and are more coward, so they would run away if they feel danger.

And so, if I brought the proof of some, after killing them, the quest

would be cleared.

Incidentally, the evidence which acts as a proof for the completion of subjugation quests, was the raw materials of demons. There are some demons which have their every body part filled with value, and some are with specified valued parts.

「What was it.....for a Kobold?」

「The wrist. For stopping fabrication, it is needed to bring many of them together」

.....Hand, you going to cut it off? Though, a demon, but it has a human shape, you going to take it off from it?

I get somewhat reluctant.....well, it can't be helped in this world or this occupation.

「From what I can see, there are 4-5.....inside the hut there might be more」

「Even so, I don't think they have enormous numbers. Is there any need to plan?」

「If you be careful to not get surrounded, then it isn't needed. And, do remember to not hurt the hut」

「Understood. Then, let's go!」

The strategy meeting (?) was over, so I took action as quick as possible.

I had thought of doing surprise attacks in stealth mode, but their appearance is that of a『Dog』they might find me based on scent.

Though wind is blowing downward for them, so that possibility does get low, but I don't know the levels of sense of hearing and smelling of Kobold.

If they found me out upon approaching, the surprise attack would end up as failure, so I chose to deal with them.

Besides, for me, even from this distance, a surprise attack is possible.

I have already checked the conditions of equipped gauntlets and shin guards, Elk too took out her dagger.

And I pick up the small stones around my feet (needed for beating to death),

(Then, we will get out on the count of three. I will take on most of them, Elk, you need to sneak attack on them. Can you do it?)

After noticing Elk nod, I take the stones in my hands which were ready to throw.

(Alright, let's go. O~ne.....)

[ET: This is mind-talking. For easier understanding, go read Prison School]

——Plurk! ← The sound of Kobold A's head getting smashed from the stone throw by me.

「Let's go!」

「Where did 2 and 3 go!?!」

「Omitted!」

「Huuh!?!」

It wasn't like I.....got turned into a douchebag, but a single Kobold seemed to have noticed our presence and was about to scream.....that's why it was omitted.....I have a perfect reason, see. I will explain it later.

The other Kobolds were fretting looking at the avant-garde art from of the head of the Kobold who got attacked by the stone.

Grasping their unguarded moment, I jumped out of bushes and rammed into them.

With the same momentum, I striked a Kobold with knee and pulverized its bones.

Furthermore, using the Kobold's shoulder as springboard, I once again jump. I landed in the center of their crowd.

There stood a single Kobold at the place of landing, I do a turning kick in air, and in a single attack smash its head.

[ET: Turning kick is roundhouse kick when on ground]

All this happened in just 5 seconds. In the blink of an eye, 3 Kobolds had been consigned to oblivion, right now, finally the other 2 Kobolds noticed my presence.

But, they have gotten too late.

1 one of the other two, while swinging the club, came at me while barking *GauGau*, let me be honest, it didn't much of a threat.

I evaded the club swung downward and attack its medulla oblongata with my elbow filled with my body weight.

It went flying towards the brushwoods.Though, it was dead before landing.

As for the last Kobold, the moment it tried to attack me, it had its carotid artery cut by Elk, who jumped from behind.

It was the result of losing the possibility of other enemy other than me

invading them. Having the blood spurt from neck, it twitched for some seconds then stopped moving.

Elk, only after taking care of remains of Kobold and seeing no other enemy, relaxed herself.

However, she understood there was no time for resting, she caught her breath and once again took up the stance with dagger.

And one second later,

As expected, the Kobolds making up for 2nd round came out of the hut.

6 in total. What, were the people outside fewer?

And, seeing us in front of hut, they assessed us as enemies and

.....Before they attacked, one of the Kobolds, had single red flower sprouted on its head.

Reason? the rock I had thrown before was lying near my foot once again, so I picked it up and recycled it and reused it.

For dealing with the Kobolds remaining for round 2, Elk and I kicked the ground.

Chapter 27 – Kobold and Landslide and Egg Part 2

In the end, killing them didn't even took a minute.

As expected, or rather, though they had intelligence their attacks were all monotonous, neither they used shrewd techniques, the Kobolds were attacked quickly without getting time to retaliate, and soon enough were extinct.

If we fought fair and square instead of surprise attacks, they would've retaliated somehow, but what we did were just tactics for winning. I didn't had any intention to say it was coward or whatnot, even I had to put my life on line while fighting.

And, Elk too moved quite splendidly compared to before.

It hadn't reached the level where it can be considered that she changed into a different person, but now, she could fight against several Goblins or Wolves, and finish them in around 10 minutes.

In the fight before too, she took on 2 Kobolds at the same time, and safely fought them. According to her, she was very nervous.

It must be, because she had been sparring with me every morning for the couple of these days before going outside the city or into the『Labyrinth』for hunting.

In that case, it might not be exaggerated to say she has become Rank D. The current Elk, that is.

Even so, she had grown quite a lot in these couple of days.

There must be a reason for this.

First, Elk is in no way weak. Though she had only been taught by her mom, she has techniques and thinking capabilities on that level.

Based on my opinion, at the very least in the techniques, she had already crossed the line of normal people.....it must be because she has some sort of talent.

But, because she lacks the basics like『Experience』and『Physical strength』, she couldn't make full use of her techniques.

In this way, the techniques she couldn't use completely, are many and stored away.

It might be because of her body constitution or hereditary genes.

Furthermore Elk's a girl. Not like I am discriminating, but basically girls have low stamina.

It might be something else if she could use body enhancement magic, but that can't be done in a day or two.

Even more, Elk's fighting styles' are self-taught, she had never been taught by anyone.

So, though she could fight, there were times she didn't use techniques, basically the fighting style was unrefined.

Or maybe, she had been taught by someone but forgot most of the points she was taught. No that might be the case.

Actually, during my time of training with mom, it wasn't once or twice that she pointed out my mistakes, furthermore, all those were that I couldn't find out myself.

In that state, though you have knowledge but using it fully... to use the techniques that's quite not possible.

So I thought, if she grew physically to perform the techniques learnt from her mom, and got experience to choose the best techniques for herself, then she would definitely grow strong rapidly.

The『intuition』I said before wasn't something random.

And right now, I could finally see that part.

Seeing that, I got it confirmed. That Elk would grow.

That's why, I would help her, if there comes a chance, then I would also tell her my personally-made magic – Including the ones I can't use – for her to get strong.

How should say it, but I could understand how a coach, who trains pro athlete, feels while teaching.

It sure feels damn great when something with outstanding talent in your hands, especially if the talent has peerless future.

[ET: I seriously thought has this changed into Xianxia. That line, ugh]

Of course, I would choose what magic to tell her.

With『Elemental Blood』at first, the magic which were too powerful, or shouldn't be told to others, I have no intention of telling them to her.

At any rate, the first mission with Elk has been safely completed, so we cut the proof of subjugation of Kobold, in other words it's wrists and put them in jute bag,

during the process, I suddenly noticed that the bare stones on the other side of hut were of strange shapes.

What can it be? Underneath the cliff, there were many pebbles collected.....huh, was there a landslide recently?

I asked Elk,

「Who knows.....Ah, but recently there earthquakes, right?」

「Yeah, you mean the one which triggered the waking up of『Naga』?」

I was still at my home, so I don't know.

「It must be that. Or this place, was originally brittle」

「.....In that case, isn't it dangerous to keep the hut standing here?」

If, at the time someone lodged in the hut, the ground crumbles, and the earth below the hut crumbles, then.....

「.....Indeed, you have a point there. We should tell at the reception after we return to guild」

「Hahaha, we found out an unexpected problem here.....Hm?」

I was looking down the cliff calmly.....but, I think I saw something shine among those pebbles.

The collection of evidence was over, so I gave the bag to Elk, and tried to go there only to find something white buried among the sand and pebbles.

That ain't a rock. What is it?

I got curious, so I brushed away the surrounding sand and pebbles and take it out.....

「.....Egg?」

That's right, it was an egg. At least the appearance was.

However, it was big. It was about the size of a person's head.Is this really an egg?

Judging from the size, if it was an egg, it must be of a demon, right?

Or rather, why was this egg? buried in place like that?

Thought it was buried among quite big pebbles, but let alone a crack there ain't a single scratch on it. Did the demon (parent) who bore this egg, buried it there for some sort of camouflage?

Otherwise, did it fall down at the time of landslide?

The former aside, but it would certainly break if it was latter, right? Yeah definitely , it would.

No, even the former will break it. What if this got deserted at a place like this?

I got curious, and tapped it with my fist. It was pretty hard.

Though that was hard, but I couldn't possibly try to see how much hard

that thing was, for the time being, I would put taking out conclusion on hold.

At that time,

SFX:Pitter,

「「Eh? 」」

☆☆☆

1 minute later,

I and Elk were resting in the hut we recovered after defeating the Kobolds.

The reason was simple. Outside rain was falling down as though someone toppled over a bucket.

That rain which started with『Pitter』then went onto『Pitter Patter』, 『Piiiiitttteerrr Patttteeerrr』and finally changed into『Zwooooosh~~!!』was enough to make us understand that we couldn't descend the mountain.

[ET: Zwooooosh~~!! is like the sound that comes when standing near (below?) the waterfall]

I had known that weather at mountains changes easily, but does it change this rapidly to make unexpectedly strong rain precipitate?

Anyhow, right now we could only wait for rain to stop.

It could be dangerous to walk the mountain road in this rain. Visibility too has gotten worse.

Furthermore, the road to reach the mountain road was an woodland road, so there were chances that we could slip.

And, if the place we slipped to was a cliff, the it would disastrous. This works even more for Elk. In my case I would probably get lost.

Though Elk remembers the way back, but it would be bad to go in this rain, so we had decided to wait till the rain stops.



However,

The rain never stopped, many hours passed, it finally changed into night,

We judged it would be impossible to descend today, so we decided to rest in the hut.

Fortunately, this place was a lodging house before, so there were sleeping bags.

Similarly, we ate jerky we prepared for emergency uses at dinner time because the preserved food for emergency which was in hut had already been eaten by those damn Kobolds.

Night had always been for sleeping,

But vigilance was needed in night for demons, and it would be scary if a landslide occurred.

And so, we decided that one person would watch for the time other person would sleep.

The first half of night Elk kept watch while I slept, the latter I kept watch while Elk slept.

Then, at dawn,

When the east side of sky was getting somewhat bright,

We were taking breakfast of jerky and some cheese found in the hut, of course, maybe because we had been up all time that food didn't satisfy our hunger.....

.....At that moment,

SFX: Crack!

「Hm?」

The egg I brought back without thinking anything yesterday, kept in the corner of my view.....made a sound like that.

Chapter 28 – That Owl Likes Magical Food

「.....And so, it born just some moments ago」

「.....I thought it had gotten noisy, so this was the reason」

Elk says while her eyes were still half-opened. She looked sleepy.

No wonder. Most probably the moment she went in deep sleep, she was woken up by the first cry of this guy.

Piiiiii! This baby bird had been crying happily.

The egg I picked up from among the pebbles on the outside, bore this baby bird who was perched on my right shoulder and was looking here and there.

It looked like an owl with black and grey feathers.

However, it wasn't a normal animal, I think it must be a demon.

After all it was just born but it had more than 20 cm tall body.

The size seemed too much for a baby bird. Its eyes too were opened from the time he was born.

It even had all the feathers grown. They were somewhat dishevelled at the time it came out of egg, but now they too are completely dry and fixed.

Well, considering the size of egg this must be normal, even so.....

Piiiiii! Piiiiii! (flatter flatter flatter!)

Holy shit it had already started flying. This bird has many things since birth.

It flew freely in the hut Elk and I were staying in, upon getting tired it perched on my shoulders, then rested and it once again repeats the process.

It has got quite high spirits, though it was born just now.

「Why is my shoulder being used to rest? every time」

「It saw you first after hatching out from egg, so maybe it has thought of you as its parent, right?」

Wha, sure enough that can be possible.

Certainly the birds have a habit of thinking as the first moving thing they see as their parents, or so I have heard. So that might be the reason.

No, even if it was thinking of me as parent, should it use me as the resting point?

「Apart from that, it's crying is noisy, isn't it hungry or something? try feeding it?」

「Ah, at first I too thought that and.....」

The rain had stopped so I had went outside, searched in the bushes and caught small insects.

During that time, this guy was crying on shoulder. The damage to my eardrums ain't no joke.

I have trained and enhanced my body, so my hearing ability was also better than other humans, so yeah that damn hurts like hell. And still, near the ears this guy continually kept on his Pii Pii Pii Pii Piii.....

But, the insects I captured suffering all that, this guy, for some reason, didn't even look at them.

I caught various like grasshoppers, earthworms, ants, caterpillars, but this guy ignored each and every of them.

I thought it must be that it didn't want to eat hard things right after being born, so I gave them after crushing them but it too didn't work.

.....In fact, judging from the size of its body, it wouldn't be bad because

of hardness.

Having said that, if this guy didn't eat anything, no wonder it would die of starvation right after being born. It would indeed make my morning bad.

Just what would this guy eat?

It couldn't be helped, so I opened the backpack and took out everything edible and presented it.

Then the baby bird moved as though it had found something,

It flew towards the『Core』of Slime we picked up yesterday. Towards it which had fallen quite a distance far due to taking out everything from the backpack.

Just like that, it skillfully holding the core with the claw of its legs, started eating by pecking at it with the beak.

Eh, What, does it like that?

Though it was inexpensive, but it can be converted into money, so Elk make a face saying『Ahhh!』,but well.....we can just take it once again.

It had been hungry as it finished one whole core in some minutes, and this time,

「Wai.....No!? No, you can't eat that!!」

Elk, in hurry, gathered all the cores, so this time it looked at.....once again not the food but the『Magic Restoration Pill』which we bought for emergencies.

It was tablet type of medicine, it was made from medicinal plants. Downing it would recover – or rather, it would supplement – small amount of magical power. Quite an expensive item.

Baby bird looked Elk with eyes full of hate because she picked it up.

No, even I don't think it would be good to the medicine.....

.....Wait a bit?

Come to think of it, the『Core of Slimes』have a small amount of magical power left in them even after the slime dies, so it had been used a lot in medicinal recipes.

That's why, defeating a slime using magic was considered ideal rather than hurting the core.

In other words, this guy.....



Was the same as I had thought.

This guy liked to eat anything with magical power inside, or maybe, it could only those things.

I don't know if this would be only for the baby period or it would continue even after growing up.

Actually currently, it was eating the medicinal plants with magical power in them, which Elk collected yesterday. Once again by skillfully using its legs and biting off little by little.

Elk also consented to let it eat, after all selling these medicinal plants wouldn't have given much in return.

「Even so, is this, a demon?」

「Maybe it is a demon living in this area? Elk, have you never seen something like this」

「I basically keep checking the list of demons in Ritoras Mountains, but I have neither saw or heard about a demon like this. Even more, a demon who likes magical power.....」

She said, that demons like that do exist, but not in this area.

In fact, she didn't even know of a demon who looked like a black owl.

It was an egg when we found it, so maybe it was brought here from some other region?

As for that egg, I checked the wreckage of the shell, it was hard.

Not only hard, it was fucking really hard.

I took a relatively large piece of it, tried to break it by using putting power in my punch, but it didn't break, oh fuck it, there wasn't even a crack, almost no signs of any transformation on it.

Looks like the egg wasn't buried there, but it came there along with the dirt and sand. It makes sense with this damn hardness.

Even the attacks from Elk's dagger gave at most only some scratches, unless I punched with quite more power it didn't break. You know this, this is more harder than steel.

Just how did this guy came out of that shell.

It finished eating, and had been on my shoulders for a while, but I couldn't even the ridiculous power from the claws on my shoulder.

Then, leaving me the work of tidying up the hut, Elk finally came back after surveying the surroundings. Along with a troublesome report.

What? Well, due to the rain yesterday, a landslide occurred.

It wasn't near the hut, so we didn't had to feel any danger, but do to that the road to going back completely collapsed.

Flat levelled trees, crumbling land, yeah seems pretty terrible.

The scene only stretches, if we tried to pass by there the land collapse at any time, so we couldn't use that place to go back.

That's why, we now had to find a new way back.

According to Elk, there were 3 roads to go to the bottom of mountain.

One of them was the ones which got into party with landslide.

One of the rest 2, goes in between the woods, it has quite a lot of slopes, moreover the ground was muddy, so equally dangerous.

I would be fine, but the same couldn't be said for Elk. It wouldn't be good if she tripped, and neither can I carry her on my back on a slope.

The last one was quite a roundabout route, but it was slightly-sloping, but there wasn't any terrain related dangers, neither can one trip even with the muddy ground.

However in that case, we would be out of Ritoras Mountains en route.

And we would have cross another place to come back.

And name too.....『Crimson Forest』

The leaves of the trees, all year have the red color like that of autumn leaves, so it got its name.

That place has more higher level and frequency of demon appearances compared to Ritoras Mountains, so that place was dangerous area in that sort of meaning.

Even so, the danger levels were the same as that of『Labyrinth of Naga』unless we tread in too deep, furthermore Elk and I have already to completed the exploration of『Labyrinth』to the lowest floor.

And so, we choose the route via Crimson Forest, with safe terrain, not so safe demons for adding up the experience.

.....Furthermore, the owl came with us as though it was natural, it perched on my shoulder and sometimes flew here and there.



In reality, the Crimson Forest had more demons, and also felt like a place with more danger than there.

In Ritoras Mountain, 2 or 3 demons would come out within an hour or so, but here even at most within 10 minutes numerous demons appear.

And, though they didn't had much difference. the demons that came out had more high levels compared to the guys in the mountain.

Of course, it wasn't even enough fo us to break a sweat.

There was red leaves that felt like a bright autumn, it somewhat felt good seeing it. So it remains the whole year like this.

Meanwhile, in that calming place there was a single demon who assaulted.

It was the red-colored lizard『Red Lizard』.

It was slightly bigger than a『Lizard』, it had grown larger with the help of magical power inside its body, and can throw fire from the mouth.

I who was calming absentmindedly, reflexively dodged that guy who came from the shade of trees and tried to swing the heel for counter attacking.

But my aim wasn't that good, so I smashed its tail.

At that moment, maybe it knew it can't win against me, so it literally cut the tail and ran off.

The scales of red lizard can be used as materials in producing ornaments, so it was little disappointing. I need to be on guard. Elk too warned me.

As for the left behind tail was also quite big considering the size of red lizard. It was about the size of a root vegetable.

And, naturally there was magical power left in the tail, so.....

「How is it? Good?」

Pii!

Just like before, I presented it to this guy. This time it was little big so I cut it in proper sizes with the help of knife.

No, it wouldn't be good to go back with only a tail. So yeah, to not feel embarrassment and for this guy to fill its stomach.

The baby bird, as expected skillfully.....(omitted).

It was little but it seemed to use the legs, claws and beak a little more skillfully than before. This guy surely grows fast.

And surprisingly, it even ate the whole tail which should of the same volume as it. Just where the hell did it enter into!?

Demons are strange.....there are still quite a lot of thing I don't know of, yet.

Now that I think about it, I've been calling it, 'it', 'this guy', 'baby bird', but.....yeah that sure can be tiring.

Furthermore, don't you feel sorry for it that it doesn't even have a name even after being born. I'm calling it baby bird, in human language it might be something like『Brat』or『Lil' Lad』.

And so, I have given it a name『Alva』

For a test I tried to call it, it seemed happy, after play-biting my ears it flew overhead and did a revolution. Yeah Yeah, it's good that you like it.

In fact, though this came late, but this guy is really cute.

I suddenly realized that the sound of wings flapping stopped.

Just like in my previous world, the owls don't make sounds while flying, and can catch their prey while flying in the darkness, just like assassin.

So it reached that level in only a hour and some minutes from birth. You're good to go, Alva.

「.....Sigh, you completely look like you want to keep it. Well, the moment you gave food to it, you got recognized as the parent.....」

Elk sighed on my curiosity and whim. I'm really sorry.

Chapter 29 – Encounter with Guards

Danger area of rank D『Crimson Forest』.

The demons which appeared were not much different from the ones inside the labyrinth. In fact, their levels were low but they come out in large numbers, so it was annoying.

Well, it wasn't like they always attacked even if we happened to come across them, ignoring the small demons generally more would immediately leave to some place. Even then numbers ain't low,

we weren't killing every one of them, but mostly we kill one of them and let others run in fright. Most run with just that.

Frankly, fighting each and every one of them would be troublesome. Once again, the numbers ain't low.

And.....there are many demons in this forest which I hesitate to kill.

Rabbit with horns『Horn Rabbit』or squirrel about the size of a puppy『Trifartel』there are many demons who are cute. They would be on the level one would keep on staring them if they were to be sold in a pet shop.

If you want to laugh then laugh. Even though I'm like this, I love cute, since the previous life. Plush toys too.

However, a part of the demons were exceptions. I'm hunting them proactively.

Like the demons whose raw materials can be sold for high prices, or those who can be used as a meat and were needed.

In my case, my policy was to tear the needed parts of demons, those which can be eaten would be used as food.

As an example,『Ignite Boar』is a pig-like carnivorous brutal demon. Its meat could be considered as a high-grade item, so good to eat, good for sale, that sort of monster it was.

There were also like a large sized chicken『Big Cook』and a completely bear like demon, and the name too『Bear』.

.....That goes for the demons on raw materials basis, as for those with expensive fur like『Trifartel』, it was being hunted by Elk proactively, so I can't get used to them dying.

Well I have my backpack, so after hunting the demons we put the materials into it, I don't think we would have a problem in walking due to excess of raw materials.

But I still have to take care to not take too much. I have no intention to greedily take raw materials in large quantity, and I more enough don't want it to become a racket if I brought raw materials in large quantities to the Guild.

Even if I『Store』it as food, the time couldn't be stopped, by time its condition would only worsen.

And, I also hunted demons with magical power. They would become the food of Alva.

Just like the『Red Lizard』from before, we met with a『Magic Bunny』only once but it was really impressive (it was realllyyy cute).

Its appearance wasn't much different from that of a rabbit, but making small sounds.....it fired of a fireball like magic, at that time I was really surprised.

I got surprised, striked the fireball with backhand blow, in between that time Elk killed it by throwing the knife.

He had a scent of more dense magic compared to other demons, but for it to suddenly use magic.How enviable.

Later, Elk told me it was a rank『D』demon, and it could defeat『Bear』, something much times bigger than it itself. Hearing that, I was even more surprised.

As for that『Magic Bunny』, it had more magical power, so as expected it became the food for Alva.

Up until now, we met only one of them.

Alva ate it the moment I presented it. If it wants to it eats.

The appetite couldn't be considered as something for someone as small as this.

The『Magic Bunny』I just now talked about was eaten completely except the bones.

It was 2 times larger than normal rabbits, and obviously lot more bigger than Alva itself.....was it digesting using magic?

Then, after digestion and absorption was over, it flew to quite a distance and did it that work.....after that it came back to my shoulder. Yeah, this guy has got good brain. It's good that I don't have to deal with aftermath.

It relaxed after eating, right now, it was sleeping on my shoulder. Was eating and sleeping the same in infants of both animals and demons?

Incidentally, This thing had been on my mind for a while,

The demons of this forest, maybe my imagination, but most are agitated.....?

Perhaps, again something else came out?

「What do you mean by something?」

「Well something like『Naga』, after all all the demons are agitated and too much worked up as if wanting to secure food, maybe a strong demon came out that can destroy the balance of ecosystem」

Something like, an ancient sleeping demon woke up due to landslide.

「Give me a little break.....I don't want to meet something like that every time」

Maybe it had turned into a trauma, Elk started. Cold sweat sprouts.

No, well, I didn't feel that they were starving or thin, so I don't think there would be something like that.....

However in that case, I have no idea what it might be.....

I tried to ask Elk before, she said normally, even if the danger level rank was D, there hasn't been a time this many demons would come across by.

Though the demons were in lot of numbers, there's those who are coward, and careful, so upon sensing humans they would themselves disperse.

And, there were majority of them who would attack on their own, now that's suspicious.

If it was like in the『Labyrinth』like food shortage I could understand the reason, but I couldn't feel anything like that, so it had been in my mind

even more deeply.

In other words, for some reason, they had been agitated and turned brutal, so they're right now in high state?

Mating season.....it doesn't seem like that. According to Elk, it doesn't occur this season.

Don't tell me, the demons of forest have made a united front and were going to attack the human habitations.....no no no, though they are demons most of them are wild animals. They wouldn't be hostile to humans only. They aren't some army of some demon king.

But in that case, it becomes more complicated to understand.....

While thinking that we briskly walked.

In an irregular place like this, Elk could still calculate and find the way back using map and sun, she's really excellent.....

——!! ——!!

.....Hm?

I think I heard something just now.....?

At that moment,

Not only me, but sleeping Alva too got startled and woke up, then raised its head up.

We both looked around here and there.....in the end we stopped while looking at the same direction.

「Oh, Alva you too noticed it?」

SFX: *Piiii!*

「? What happened, you guys?」

Elk walked some steps, noticed something and turned back.....the next moment,

SFX: *Hyyyyuu! Pashiii!!* (*whistle* *strike*)

Something – an arrow – so an arrow, came flying at me crossing through the trees, so I tried to catch it with my hand.

Not like it would hit something or someone even if it kept flying in that trajectory.

As though the momentum if came flying can be understood, the arrow hit my arm making a *Piian* sound and wavered, seeing that Elk started then a second later she understood the whole situation.

Then, in a fluster, I looked towards the place arrow came flying in from, there was no one.

「Minato, is there something!?!」

「.....Well, if you ask there is something then yes there is, but.....」

Most probably, Elk thought it was an attack from some demon with intelligence and can use weapons like Kobold from yesterday or Goblins from『Labyrinth』. She took out the dagger and took a fighting stance.

But that might be wrong. From what she had heard.

I tell her『It's fine』while holding her back with my hand.

「Probably, we weren't getting aimed at.」

「.....? What do you mean?」

Ah well, it was quite far.....so Elk can't hear it.

In this forest, there were cries of demons here and there, so it had been noisy.

As for what my ear heard were.....battle sounds.

The sound of something getting cut by a sword.

The sound of something attacking a metallic armor or something.

The sound of air cutting mostly because arrows are flying.

And.....the sound of demons' crying and humans' voices.

But, the voices of humans' wasn't something like scream. It was more like, angry voice? commanding voice? At any rate, it wasn't a voice that seemed to be afraid from demons.....

In that case this arrow was a stray arrow. Now this is really dangerous.

「In other words, someone is getting attacked by demons?」

「It's not one-sided, looks like they're putting up a fight? I can't hear screams. And it's not necessary that there are only 1 or 2 people」

From what I heard, approximately, 10 are present. I couldn't deduce exactly the numbers because there was a quite a distance between us.

「So, is it an adventurer party? Or is it a trader group with escorts?」

「Who know. What will you do? Wanna see?」

「.....Not really, I have no interest in getting involved with other people's

problems.....」

glance She sees the map in her hand,

「From here it is quite far. Helping them is something else, but let's go and see what's happening」

「Understood」

We change the route, not like we couldn't take a detour but it would be troublesome to walk more.

And, seems like they were having hard time, so it would good to not take a detour so I could save them when needed.



The stray arrows could again come flying, so for precautions, I walked in front while Elk behind me.

Sure enough, 2 or 3 came, so I broke them or caught and kept on our progress.

The arrows I caught were stored in the backpack because it seemed to be too wasteful to throw them.

Then, after passing through the trees, we finally reached the mountain

road where the sounds were coming fr.....Whoops! (Pashi), once again it came flying.

Then, what I saw on the other side after catching it was.....

「.....!? Reinforcement.....no, humans, eh?」

A woman holding a bow while looking at us with a surprised expression.

And in her surroundings,

Just like I heard, there were 10 and some more people.

Everyone had weapons in hand and were fighting the demons attacking them from inside the forest.

There were some carriages too, they were fighting while covering them, it doesn't seem like a trader group to me.

Why? Because the attire of all them was same.

And it wasn't only normally matching. It looked like a military or naval uniform. They are wearing an armor, all have the same design. Including the woman too.

They seem more like Knights compared to adventurers?

Then, after a second, the startled woman, quickly,

「.....Oi, the young man over there!」

「Eh, Yes!?!」

「You're an adventurer, right? There is danger here, quickly.....!」

The woman stopped talking, took her stance with bow and nocked the arrow.

Then, aiming at our side.....Wha, Wait!?

I took defensive posture for an instant, but the arrow didn't reach us, but went by our side and pierced the temple of『Wolf』hiding in the shade of tree behind us.

Whoa, awesome. She's fast to take stance and shoot.

That bow and arrow using woman, takes a breath then once again looks at us,

「I'm sorry for scaring you. Young man and oh, there is one more. I'm sorry to ask it immediately, but are you adventurer or something? 」

「Eh? Ah, Yes, well we are」

「I see. Sorry for the rude behaviour, but just as you see en route we.....!」

While saying that she once again takes down another demon with her certain archery.

「If you haven't lost the way, then I will recommend to get out from here quickly. The situation is quite dire. If you remain here it would dangerous for you too」

「Err, what about you all?」

「Just as you see. I'm sorry, but we can't protect *you both in this situation」

[ET: She says Kikou (貴公), this is used by MALES to refer to equal or inferior (in age) males]

No, I don't think I understood anything at all by looking.

Then, before she spoke her words,

Her companion fighting at a separate place shouted in panic.

「Captain! There are reinforcements near 10 o'clock! Wolf and.....Bear and Red Lizard too!」

「Ku, again! The smell of blood is stimulating them and luring them, eh.....It's inevitable, everyone.....!? Oi moron, behind you!」

The woman shouted, the man who just now called her『Captain』, had a wolf coming at him from behind.

But, before that『moron』man noticed it,the arrow I threw struck the eye of wolf. The one I caught some moments ago.

Yeah, even now I can not leave someone who is about to get hurt. No matter what.

The wolf stopped there, but it started rampaging there, so there could've been casualties for the Knights (?), so I stepped the ground to reach there and kicked it.

The kick sent it flying to the opposite side of bushes, no, grove of trees.

The bow and arrow using woman and others saw everything that happened in that second in mute amazement.

「Err.....was meddlesome for you?」

「.....No, you helped us, thank you」

The bow and arrow using woman gave the words of gratitude after being the first one to understand the situation.

「And young man, though I said to run, but can you try to meddle some more? You have some ability, frankly, we don't have much composure right now」

「Eh, yes, if that's the case. Elk, you fine with it?」

「Yeah, I'm fine. It's not like I didn't predict this. Finish it quickly, okay?」

「Understood ma'am. Ah, that's right, Alva it will be dangerous so be with Elk」

Piiiiii!

I confirmed that Alva landed on the shoulder of Elk.

That Elk was in an non-aggressive defense stance with her back facing a carriage. Yeah, in the current situation that might be the correct choice.

I strike the gauntlets of both hands and faced the『reinforcements』the knights (temporary) were saying before. Whoa, sure enough, they are quite a lot.

.....Well, it would be a good warm-up.

So now that I'm participating in battle here, I would have to perceive this group as my comrades, right.

I don't like my comrades being hurt, so to finish the warm-up, I kicked the ground.



After some ten-odd minutes,

We succeeded in somehow repelling that crowd of demons.

While letting the knights protecting, the carriage was moving away from that place.

We were able to get them away by the plan of me and other knights including the bow and arrow using woman to kill the monsters chasing us.

It wasn't exactly repelling, right? We too ran away.

And, right now we both were sitting while facing the bow and arrow using woman inside a carriage of the group.

「Well then.....first let me thank you. We were saved after all」

「Ah, no, we were just passing by, you don't have to worry about it」

「Though I'm grateful that you say that, but thanks to you the casualties

to my squad was less, so I can't accept your words. Right now, I can only bow down my head」

She bows her head, seems like, she was the captain of this group.

The way she was letting out that air, and bowing her head in a place like this, I had a good first impression of her.

And, here finally I could see her clearly.

She has somewhat short light blue hair, and an easy-to-move blue colored navy uniform.

Maybe she had matched the armor with her clothes and it too was of blue-violet color, it was a light armor just like Elk's one. The design was more for not interfering with agility and not more for defense

「I haven't introduced myself yet. I'm Suura Cowen. I'm the platoon leader of the city guard force stationed near here. They are my subordinates」

City guard force.....ah, the police-like thing that came in the case with Elk.

For short『Guards』. Though they are counted as a part of country's army, but they are more like police boxes responsible for problems happening near the citizens living place.

To put it simply, the difference is like that of police and army?

Well in emergencies they too fight along with army, so they were considered as a full-fledged army link.

And, this Suura-san seems to be the『Platoon leader』in the base near here.

She lead a troop for a mission, then the situation changed into what it was before and seemed to have a close fight.

And, we by coincidence were passing by.

「It would've been dangerous at that rate. Though we wouldn't had lost, but not everyone would have been fine. You really saved us」

「Ah, no, it's fine as long as everyone is fine」

I reply with a nod seeing Suura-san bowing her head again, at the same time, I finish our self-introduction.

「.....Now, let's change the topic, you both are adventurers, right, what was the reason you came in this forest? 」

「Ah, no it's not like we had some reason to come in this forest.....」

I told her, us coming from Ritoras Mountain, and were taking a detour

route to return back to city. All in a summary.

Then, Suura-san slightly furrowed her brows.

「It's unfortunate but you won't be able to reach your destination on this carriage. We are heading deep into forest after all」

「Eh, is that true?」

「Yeah, strictly speaking.....『We have go deep inside the forest』or else we won't reach our destination」

I don't get it clearly, but it seems like that.

Muu.....I was thinking that they would let us get out of forest in the carriage for helping them, but not everything in life goes easily well.

But in that case, we should now leave them.

We were only outsiders, and will only be hindrance to Suura-san in her mission.

I tell Suura-san that we would leaving here.

「I see, understood. I still want to thank you, but I'm in midst of work, so you know. It's painful but I have nothing to give to you two」

「Ah, please don't. I'll just take the grateful feelings」

「I see. Then.....before that」

Then Suura-san opened a map in front of us as though she remembered something.

What is it, while thinking that we both look, Suura-san then points at a point with her fair clean finger.

.....Elk, I leave it up to you.

「Are you both going via this route to outside?」

「Yes, is there a problem?」

「Yeah. In truth.....because of the heavy rain yesterday, the whole terrain around this area has crumbled. Due to that, this south road is mostly blocked」

.....geh, for true?

The area Suura-san pointed with her finger also covered the route Elk had said to walk on.

.....We couldn't get through there. For the same reason we took a detour from Ritoras Mountain.

Suura-san, left the base early morning, couldn't use that route, so took a really roundabout route and had then reached here.

We were told about the route, but yeah, it surely has quite a large distance to cover.

And we were able to know the reason behind the agitation of demons of forest, it was because of landslide.

Though it was only in an area, but the landslide changed the terrain of that place, so the demon ruling that territory was agitated. It lost the territory in a single night, so due to that the demons moved for recovering it, but didn't stop and started to expand their territory, therefore the southern side of forest was in a rebellion state for now.

It couldn't complain the natural phenomenon, so it came to this point.

In that case, for some time, this forest would be really troublesome.

Normally too the numbers and types of demons here were more, and in this state it would be more bad. Including the fact I would have to take a detour, it would turn into a difficult road back to city.

「What will you do, Elk」

「What you mean what to do, this is the only way back, so we have to go on this route」

Sure enough.....

「.....By the way, I have single suggestion」

Suura-san opened her mouth with a difficult to speak expression. What happened?

「Can you both accompany us, only if you feel like it?」

「? What do you mean by that?」

「Just like I said before. We are currently headed deep in the forest for our mission, so it's quite uneasy because the demons would also be stronger. That is little miserable, you might have guessed it from the battle before」

「Ah, I see」

「Furthermore in this『Crimson Forest』the outer areas have low ranked demons but after entering a little inside their ranks jump the gun and rapidly increase. The current us.....well, we won't be annihilated but we surely wouldn't be able to come back without anyone getting hurt」

「I had heard that the people affiliated to Royal Army's lowest strata have been employed as『Guards』.....」

「Yeah. That's why the lack of strength is also one of the reason」

There, Suura-san spoke.

Though they were low leveled demons like『Wolf』and『Red Lizard』, but I was beatin the crap out of them barehandedly and Elk too fought against them with movements not at all inferior to Knights.

So she wants to hire us as adventurers to aid the squad temporarily.

「Of course, I would reward you later. Though it won't be as far as giving all, but I do plan to give you the reward from my private funds too」

「Wouldn't it be better to go back temporarily and replenish the war potential?」

Elk spoke up.

Completely right. Doing that would be more good than hiring adventurers like us who have unknown origins.

And didn't they used too many arrows in the previous battle? they should replenish it too.

「.....Indeed, normally I would've done that. But we don't have timewise composure to do that」

「What do you mean?」

「The mission this time is to rescue. We can't take more time」

Ah, so that's how it was.

From what I heard, yesterday, a caravan of traders was deployed from『Volca』piled with some important commodity, but they didn't reach the neighbouring city they were to reach in night.

From investigating, it was guessed that they took the path via『Crimson Forest』as a shortcut route, but en route the heavy rain came and they were stranded here.

They would be on the woodland path, and would be found out without taking time, or so was their speculation, but due to the change in terrain because of landslide and the agitated state of demons had changed it.

Because of the situation within forest they wanted to replenish the consumable goods like arrow and all, but they couldn't possibly make the target for protection wait for long in the forest.

Moreover in doing that they would have to take that roundabout route. If they went back, then coming back today would be impossible. Based on time, the survival rate of traders would be grim.

And so, she asked us to help her, after all we came like a godsend to them.

「And it's not like I don't know you.」

「？」

「Due to my position, I have a good eye to discern people, just like from the skill you showed in the previous battle and especially,Minato, right, you even stopped my arrow from point-blank range, didn't you?」

Regarding that Suura-san apologized.

Well indeed, normal people wouldn't be able to catch an arrow. So she also evaluated that point too.

「And you don't even demand money for helping and just tried to get away from here, that's an unselfish personality. Having seen that much, I know that I can somewhat trust you」

Suura-san said that along with a gentle smile.

「So what will you do? I will say again, that I will pay the reward completely. It's including my subordinates with promising future. Although it's miserable as a soldier, but stomach can't become spine. can't you please accompany us?」

Suura-san asked with gentle yet serious eyes.

.....Ah, what should I do.....

I'm happy that she praised me. But in that case it would be.....

It didn't look like she was lying, so Suura-san would clearly pay the reward. For the amount of trouble it would bring us also.

Even so, we would have to bear the responsibility of going in the dangerous『forest』without any preparations.

And, the tactics based on pros and cons based on the area were something I'm not good at or rather.....

.....Elk, all up to you

「How long would be the time period for this job?」

「It will be like.....searching for traders group, then escort them to the city, so at fast it would be over by tomorrow. At most it would be 5 days. Of course, that would be the timit limit for exploration」

「.....Minato, you can make ice and all?」

「? Well, it's not like I can't do it, why?」

More precisely, I don't make it with magic immediately, but use『Magic Arts』to freeze the moisture in atmosphere to make ice.

But, what happened suddenly?

「I mean the wrists of Kobolds for subjugation proofs, we can't let it rot away, right? Upon freezing, it should be able to keep the shape for some days」

「? You were in the middle of quest?」

「Yeah. We have to present the proofs of subjugation within one week」

Saying that, ELk showed the wrists of Kobold to Suura-san.

「I see. In that case, we have preservatives within our equipments, you can use it. If it's a simple thing then it would be able to preserve for 2 weeks」

「Really? You have got a quite convenient thing there?」

「Yeah. Due to my work, I have to bring back the wrists of robbers too. Regardless of missions, upon expeditions I bring it for preserving some things」

Unexpectedly, we were told her work quite vividly.

Well, like that the wrists would be preserved.

The time limit for request reached『At most 5 days』, so it might be safe at borderline.

In the worst case, after days, the exploration gets cancelled, we both withdraw, and I run with Elk on back in hyper speed.

「How about we act as mediators for the time limit of quest. Of course, for the time you would be here, we will prepare the food. But, upon increase in numbers we would have some local procurement, please acknowledge it.....」

「And for other facilities?」

「The sleeping place, huh. Either inside the carriage, or we have 2 tents prepared, you can choose any one」

「Contents of work? Are we needed to only aid during the time of battle?」

「Basically yes. If I ask to be more greedy, I would like you to help in exploration, and setting up the camping grounds.....Ah of course, I would increase the reward taking that in consideration」

「I see.I need a rough sketch about the amount of money given as reward, can I ask it?」

「You're right.....for the time being, how about 50 silver coins?」

「T-That much!?!」

In Japanese yen it would be.....500K yen!? Really!? I would get that much for just escorting for 4 or 5 days.

「.....Isn't this quite lavish?」

「It isn't. The place we are going is the deepest part of『Crimson Forest』 where the danger level are lot more. According to situation, I would increase the reward」

Hearing that, Elk thought for a while.....

「.....Understood. Minato, you fine with it?」

「You accepting it?」

「Yeah. Looking at other conditions, this is cost-effective. And thinking about future, this would have help us get experience for quests like this」

Well yeah.

With this work we should be able to get a lot of experience for escorting quest.

Adding that, we would get extraordinary reward, so it would be good to accept it.

After that I left the negotiations to Elk, completed the detailed facts,

and officially accepted the quest by Suura-san.

It was a normal quest, but before I knew it, it had upgraded.....well just think of it as life experience.

Chapter 30 – Girls' Talk on the Riverside

Few hours after going with Suura-san and the guards,

We were able to find the『Trader Group』, our goal, quite quickly.

Well, just like Suura-san thought, they were on the woodland path, moreover, I too was using my enhanced hearing ability to search.

Then, after searching for an hour, I heard some sounds seeming like a quarrel, we went there and bingo, we found them.

Incidentally, the traders we secured were together with adventurers they had hired in Volca as escorts, and those adventurers are.....

「Well, it is a coincidence. For being able to meet you two again after tomorrow and in this place」

「.....err, Zari-san, right? Well, you're right in a sense」

「Don't add『san』, just call me Zari without any honorifics. It's not like we don't know each other, right?」

No, I seriously think if that conversation which didn't even last more than some minutes is enough to put me in the『Acquaintance』category.

Yeah. The『Escorts』were Zari and other two delinquent adventurer who

made a fuss near the『Board』in the guild yesterday.

Just when I thought I have secured the Trader Group, something strange came as free product.....that really surprised me, seriously.

Among them, this flashy guy, Zari came in the same as our carriage saying the more the merrier.

As for the remaining two.....the obese guy and gorilla-macho-man who were aiming for Elk yesterday.

「Like I said, this is da necessary expenses, right? So don't be stingy about it, mister richy trader」

「If we don't use our power, we won't be able to protect ya treasure, right?」

「Stop fucking around! Where do you see escorts who lays hand on the commodities they are required to protect!!」

Good grief, they're still at it.

Apparently, the two were hired as escorts, but their behaviour was exactly like delinquents.

From what I heard, before we rescued them, these two laid hands on the commodity the trader was carrying.....no, aren't I repeating what they just said.

「Aww, at that rate we would be getting complained upon reaching the city. We don't even have accomplished the request, now we would have to give penalty, fine」

「Didn't you had wrong people to work with?」

「Ahaha, you're strict~.....」

Hearing the prickly lines of Elk, the flashy man laughs it off without paying attention to it.

Apparently they really met some days earlier and tried to take up on a request together. Though it might be wrong to say it.....but this guy got the losing lottery ticket.

However, upon talking like this, the air around this Zari, surely is frivolous.....but not irritating unlike those two.

At the very least, he isn't someone one would want to avoid based on his appearance. I don't feel indecent stares toward Elk or Suura-san, but neither does he keep much distance between them and him.

As if he noticed, he suddenly looked towards me,

「Ah, that's right. Hey, boyfriend-kun」

And said something like that to me.

At that time, hearing『Boyfriend』, Elk turned red in an instant, but because it was really cute, so I didn't retort.

「I forgot to ask yesterday, but.....you're that, right? The adventurer in black, the one who defeated『Naga』」

「AH.....you can tell? Really?」

「Well yeah, that's your appearance after all. When I first saw you, I thought you were a crow」

.....Don't you have good examples other than that.

But well how to put it, he is unexpectedly fun guy to talk with, so along with Zari and other three adventurers too, our travel went comparatively happily.

Leaving the moving to coachman and horse, we just relaxed and talked.

Only sometimes did demons attack, it was alright to just handle them suitably.

Perhaps due to more people, the demons who attacked became low.

Then that time continued for some while, now it was time for sun to set down.

Normally thinking it was dangerous to move forward in night, so we decided to put up a camp near this area, and we all begin preparing the camping ground.

The night of that day, we had a barbeque party with the dry preserved foods brought by the Knights and the edible animals (demons too) we hunted for procuring more food.

Due to the situation, they had only brought simple plain foods, so when I brought two bears, everyone got delighted.

I was holding one in each hand, so I thought they would be taken aback, but on the contrary I was praised and even got my back struck violently. It sure is great, the people who are straightforward and don't make fuss about everything. Though, it is indeed stifling.

At that time, I encountered some slimes and red lizards, so I hunted them down and gave them to Alva.



That night,

I woke up, moreover wide-awake and couldn't go back to sleep.

I couldn't sleep at all, so I thought to wash my face for relaxing, and I headed to the river we found in the vicinity.

I speak with the guards on duty for night and left the camping grounds.

The night watch is being done by Knights in shifts.

At first I suggested that I should too go night watch, but Suura-san said me to rest in night, I had helped her fight and also brought wonderful food.

She kindly told me and I accepted her words. To cover up for it, I would work hard in morning.

After reaching the river, I washed my face by splashing the water which felt cold because there was no sunlight unlike daytime. And it feels really good on this body which hasn't gone in bath for last two days.

.....But, now I feel that I'm more awake than before for no reason at all.

In my case, after washing my face like this, I would be able to sleep after a while even if I'm not feeling sleepy right now.

Looking at the position of the moon and all, I finally realised it was going to be dawn pretty soon.

At this rate, it would be good to be awake. And I don't feel any lack of sleep.

It's like this, should I also catch some ingredients to add in the

breakfast.

It was some minutes later, Elk arrived.

I was『catching』big fishes, because I had many small ones, at that time, I heard footsteps of someone approaching from behind the brushwoods.

I turn back and Elk came out of there holding a large towel.

「.....Breakfast?」

「Yeah. Meat will be too much heavy in the morning, and I also ate that yesterday, so I thought fish would be good. Well it is only secondary job after washing my face」

「I get it, but.....you catch fish in quite an interesting way」

「Interesting, is it?」

「Surely. From what I know, the only ones who catch fish that way are you and bears」

Ah, well, I also think that this way does seem like the way bears hunt salmon in Hokkaido, by slapping the swimming fish and throwing it to the riverside.

But, I hate luring them with fishing pole. Because I hate waiting and

being patient.

This way is more quick and reliable.

And, for not letting the fishes get injured, I'm scooping them out gently, so their condition too is good.

「And how are you able to stand on water? Magic?」

「No, this is that.....surface tension, never heard of it? Like gerridae」

[ET: Gerridae is the family of insects like water striders or pond skaters. Basically, they have the power to play freely on water without any magic, chakra, or ninja water slippers]

[AK: is only me or ... reminds me of Naruto]

[ET: Even I wonder why I used that shit here and why Minato used something similar]

The technique to activate surface tension on the bottom of feet by using water magic. This too was developed during training.

Right now I can walk on the water surface and stand just like gerridae – Mom told me they exist in this world too -, and like that I can play on water.

Upon running fast the magical power on the bottom on feet would scatter, but at that time I can just run at full speed, so problem.

When I told her, a sigh came back. Sorry for being a freak.

「By the way, why are you here?」

「I am.....for bathing. I hadn't entered bath for past two days」

Saying that while hesitating, she started to undress, without even paying attention to the fact that I am in front of her.

「Ah, then I should go to other side」

「It's fine. I'm not concerned on letting my body being seen by you after all this time.....we are doing even bigger things than this after all」

Ah, well, she's right.

Since that night, I became more close with Elk, and not only stayed with her in day but also night.

Several days later,

It started when Elk said for us to be in the same room, as it would save money and we have entered a deep relationship too.

Surely she wasn't wrong. Elk came to my room many times for sorting the raw materials I hunted, or for discussing the plans for next day, sometimes, she came but didn't go back too.

The bed of the room too is pretty big for two people.....like that, it went to『that sort of thing』too.

So it became to the talk of us living in same room, when we told Tanya-chan, I was made fun of with a face as though she were having fun, moreover a room with double bed was also prepared.

No, well.....she's doing her work fine, so no problem.

Anyhow, everything went that way, and our distance also closed up quite a bit, more precisely, at least to the level we won't feel embarrassed on having our naked body seen by each other.

That's why, seeing Elk undressing in front of me.....though not completely, but yeah, I'm not startled as much I used to before. The places I haven't seen on Elk's body, are now non-existent.

The same goes for Elk. She doesn't feel embarrassed upon having me seeing her, her recently it has gotten to point『You can stay here and keep guarding』, just like she said before.

I'm happy and unsatisfied as a man, but I can feel trust in those words, so I'm happy.

While I was thinking all that stuff, Elk has already finished undressing

and started to wipe her body with a small wet towel.

The scene of Elk washing her body under the moonlight is truly fascinating, to the extent that I have already started to staring at her without blinking.

I watched her too much, so she asked『Want to enter in water together?』, but that I refused.

Though it is a fascinating invitation.....but there is high possibility that I will feel remorseful later. The mental strength of boy in puberty is not strong. And it will be even weak during camping.

I even got asked『You don't want to wipe off you sweat』, but in that area, I have a trick though it won't make you feel refreshed.

What is it? It is really simple, but dangerous.

It is ignite my own body with fire, then become a fire ghost doll.....and just like that burn and exhaust all the dirt and sweat. If in fire for 1 minute, all the dirt and old cuticles too fall down.

And my clothes and equipments can't be burned with flames, so laundry also is done together. The only fault is, I can't do that while indoors.

Hearing that Elk, shows a fed up, amazed and perplexed expression.....and just after, while showing an expression as she remembered something,

「Hey, Minato?」

「What?」

「If I asked then would to teach me those.....the convenient magics? Well, it's only after I become more good at magic by practising.....」

She asked me that while hesitating a bit.

Seeing me use various types of insane but interesting original magic – I am using various others during exploration and training – , Elk too must've thought to use some of them.

Hearing that, I didn't get very flustered.

Frankly, I had known she was going to ask me that at some point.

From what I conclude, the answer is half Yes, and half No.

Elk is my partner whom I can trust in both public and private matters, so If can help her grow, then I've got no hesitation at all.

The convenience magics I am using right now, I would tell her while being happy.

Of course, just like Elk said, only after her magic has started to take

form.

Due to her having the talent which I don't, she might be able to use them more greatly than me, so I'm looking forward to that.

But this only the Yes part. The No part is different.

Among the magics I have, there are those who have been referred as『Taboo』,『Not for teaching people』or『Don't use it』, which let alone teaching, even I cannot use.

There are also types which are completely banned and some are allowed with conditions attached, there are many reasons, for example the 18th one『Elemental Blood』would be dangerous largely if it is leaked to outside carelessly, so I have no intention of teaching it to any person, no matter who it is.

So, for them, though it is unfortunate, but I can't teach it to Elk either.

Of course, if Elk, after completing her training reached that realm, then at that time, if I was able to trust her completely then.....yeah I don't know what I would do.

But when I told her that, Elk didn't show an expression of sadness, but revealed a smile filled with fighting spirit.

She might have gotten in high spirits thinking that she too would be able to use these interesting magic, aside forbidden ones. Well, it's good to be motivated, so no problem there.

Even I'm excited to see her use magic like me.



Some minutes later,

The time when Elk almost washed her body, and I too collected too many fishes,

「.....Hm?」

I sensed several presences in surrounding, immediately after, a black shadow appeared above me.

But, due to sound of wings flapping – which mostly didn't make sounds – I noticed it, and not got scared when it perched on my shoulders.

「Alva, you are awake too?Oh, right you're a nocturnal animal」

Well, I don't know if it is friend of owls or not.

It has grown a lot from morning, it looks more like owl and falcon mixed in one.....what the hell I'm thinking about right now.

The problem is the other presences.....two, moreover both are coming from downwind.

one of them has really weak presence. As if a professional spy.....to the extent I can somehow sense it due to my enhanced hearing ability and smelling sense.

But, the other one, the one without any intention to hide, appears from behind the brushwoods the moment later.....ah, what.

「Oh, so there were previous guests. Minato-dono and Elk-dono」

It was Suura-san letting her blue hair flutter in morning breeze, it seemed a lot refreshing.

She isn't wearing armor, but sure is carrying her favorite set of bow and arrow.

In her other hand is a simple yet soft to touch, somewhat big towel.

Looking at her hand luggage, it seems like she too came for same work Elk did.

And Suura-san perceived it. She realizes that Elk just now finished the work she herself was going to start.

And looking at the situation more clearly, I too am at that place.

「Fumu.....just like I expected, you both are not simply adventurer partners, but have more intimate relationship. It doesn't seem like you

both did that here」

「Well right」

「Hahaha.....I somehow beared it」

「I see. Fufu, that's sincere of you though being young」

I see, Suura-san says that and puts her hand on clothes to undress.

Ah, wait, this is going to be that, right.

「E-Elk, well then, I'm going back before」

「Oh, Minato-dono, are you going back? I don't mind if you stand there, though」

Then, Suura-san said that in manner I don't know if I should categorize it into serious or joke.

Huh, is Suura-san, more of frank type of person.....liking these sort of jokes?

Well, she is living in an army of men, so maybe she isn't feeling anything upon being seen by others.....so I can't possibly say『I will take that offer』, so let's get our ass out of here.

I will keep guarding from somewhere far, and Suura-san can use bow and magic so problem in safety department.

That's why,

The place, Alva is pointing and trying to get my attention towards by poking my head.....the place with the other person's presence, I decide to go there.

「Then, have fun」

Saying just that, I kicked the ground.

Ah, I forgot bringing scarf and fishes. I will come back later~



Immediately after Minato disappeared on the other side of brushwoods.

She.....Suura, who came to bath just like Elk, undressed and entered the water holding towel in one hand.

Elk is currently naked, but because other person is also female, there isn't any need to put her guard up.

.....And Suura has already seen her naked with Minato, so she isn't all

that embarrassed at this point.

Before they knew, with natural flow, it started from normal chatting and turned into girls' talk.

Like troubles in the places full of men, or about having troublesome partner and subordinates.....and some more idle complaints got mixed into the talk.

From that conversation, the two understood more and more about each other.

To Elk, Suura is a sincere, calm and composed, strict at times needed, and is frank person who is easy to talk with.

It seemed like Elk finally understood the reason, the subordinates accompanying them would yearn for Suura and trust her.

On the other hand, Suura too found Elk to be a stern and strong woman but kind at some points.

And also realized that she couldn't be honest to herself when given kindness by others and in turn gets angry.

Also the fact that, that young man might like her this part too.

Though they didn't found the deepest parts of each other's heart, but the talk went on causally.

「However, Minato-dono hasn't returned yet. Before, it seemed like he found some presence and went to confirm it.....Elk-dono did you sense something?」

「Nope? But he has really good hearing ability, and judging from his expression before it didn't seem like he made an excuse to run」

Elk guessed it because she knows about Minato's super five senses.

「But what might it be? If it isn't demon, the thinking normally.....it might be someone aiming to peep at our bodies.....」

「Like those two delinquents?」

Elk recalled the face of two ill-bred adventurers she met in front of board in guild and rescued yesterday, and she knit her eyebrows.

Yesterday's night, in a drunken frenzy they called out to Elk, Suura and other females in guard troop. Naturally, everybody ignored them.

On the other hand, the frivolous Zari, didn't show any signs of that and was doing manly talk with Minato. Just, like Elk and Suura are doing their girls' talk.

「Well that is probable, but sometimes, during expeditions the males from squad.....to peek on me and other females when changing the clothes」

「Eh!? What, is that alright with you!?!」

「Well, I'm not alright with it, but men are like that, so I have no intention of scolding them. They too must have the resolution to accept severe punishments upon being found out」

「That.....can be interpreted as that there are times they peek without getting found out?」

「You're right. But that also means they have good spying abilities, right? At that time, well.....I let them see me naked as reward for them training」

Elk was surprised on Suura's word filled with all her heart.

Does living in a society of men like army increases the resistance like this?

That is in truth not wrong, most of the females in army or guard squads, don't mind on being seen naked and can easily do indecent talks too. Suura too couldn't get out from that resistance.

Becoming aware of it, Elk's eyes looks over Suura's body.

Though in the dim place, the body of Suura seemed fascinating to Elk too, though being the same female.

Her breasts were large, and waist slim. An ideal figure for a woman.

She thought it wasn't strange that all men wanted to see it, even if they had to peep.

「But if that『someone/something』is really present, then I can only compliment this level of skill, I didn't sense it at all. I don't think it is them two, thought I would be happy if they're my subordinates.....」

「No, I'm not happy about that」

Around the time, the two women were having that conversation,

Minato, who went to confirm that『someone/something』, stood on the top of tree.....and surveyed the surroundings with a serious looking expression.

Because that『someone/something』was not the one Suura thought.

The person hiding was really skillfully erasing his presence.

Even after concentrating through eyes, he didn't find any shadow. It was a perfect hiding skill which can't be caught unless someone has the ability to smell magical power scent like Minato.

To that『someone/something』which even has vague scent, Minato started talking alone.

「.....Well, I don't feel any hostility, and I have no intention to pick your faults, so I'm returning for today, you too go back」

He turned back on the branch of tree.

It seemed like he would go immediately, but

「You must've had some goal, but I don't feel good on having my partner's body being peeped at. So, if you do something like this, or even more.....」

One beat later,

「.....I will use my hand, and then don't ask for forgiveness」

He said that and jumped below.

Some seconds later,

From a tree far from there, a single man appeared.

Smiling in a light smile not different from the daytime,

「.....Not only my presence he even noticed my position.....even though I had confidence in my skills of playing hide-n-seek. Just who is he, really」

While having his orange hair shine with the light of moon who is soon about to disappear, he spoke in voice with no tension.

「So, he is one of those sleeping dogs who shouldn't be disturbed.....I've gotten used to dangers already, but it's foolish to disturb a sleeping dog, so I will draw back for now. Though he is interesting.....but seems like 'they' have no relation」

That man.....Zari says that and without breaking that smile till the end left the place obediently.

Chapter 31 – 『Blood Maple』

After Elk and Suura-san finished bathing, we had the same preserved food and the bears from yesterday's night and departed.

Today too in the carriage of the Trader Group were the traders and those two delinquents.

As for Elk, Zari and myself, we were riding in one of the carriages of the guards.

The reason Zari got on with us was, according to him, he wouldn't be able to relax if those two were near him and they would also quarrel.

It was approved because he hadn't shown any bad attitude like those two.

On the other hand, when they yesterday joined with this squad, they started to flirt with Elk, Suura-san and other girls (though were ignored), and because of that they weren't approved of getting on the carriages of the guards.

Incidentally, I'm still somewhat anxious about Zari.....but he hadn't shown any hostility or malice yet, so I'm just watching him carefully.

If he remained just like that, then he would just be a frivolous lad, who was sociable and easy to talk with.

While having those concerns in my mind, the group of carriages of the traders and the guards were moving through the『Crimson Forest』.

Well, because of a landslide the monsters were in a frenzy, so we had encounter with demons, but that was within (our) expectations.

I would punch them and drive them away, or sometimes kill them to get the materials, well like that we were moving forward.



Along the way,

It was around noon when everyone was having lunch in their respective carriages, while the carriage was running.

As for the menu, it was the same as in the morning.

I was spending that time within the carriage while I was having fun chatting with Elk, Suura-san and Zari too.

Especially, Zari would start up new topics, so I wasn't getting bored..... and I'm grateful for that.

When the chatting took a rest, Zari murmured absentmindedly while looking outside the window.

「We're moving.....really smoothly, more than what I had expected」

「Smooth? We have had encounter with many demons before, you call that smoothly moving?」

「Isn't this smooth? If you think of the fact that this group of carriages full-packed with food is moving in the forest where only agitated demons are roaming」

Zari replied.

The commodities of the trader group, emergency food of the knights, and the food we have gotten from the local procurement this morning, in short, within this group of carriages there was too much food.

For demons it would be like a buffet that was moving in the forest.

.....I didn't want to think this, but for demons, humans like us would also be food.

It would be natural for us to be targeted. And, this forest had many demons from the start.

Just what were those traders thinking, using this forest as a shortcut. Why did nobody opposed it?

I asked Zari, he told me that at first he did oppose it, but the other escorts surrendered to the dazzling persuasion of the increased reward,

so it was decided by majority vote. My condolences.

And considering that fact, the pace we were getting attacked was very low according to Zari.

「At this pace, wouldn't we get out of forest by today, platoon captain-san?」

「Sure enough. If nothing goes wrong, then by the twilight we will be out. But getting to the city will be difficult. We would reach by tomorrow morning」

「City, do you mean Volca?」

Upon asking, Suura-san nodded.

Huh? But weren't the traders aiming to go to the neighbouring town -It was called Listal or something – , would it be good to return back?

「From what I heard, when they were in the forest, they were attacked many time by demons and lost a little of their luggage, so wouldn't' it be better to replenish the goods?」

「Not only luggage but also escorts. At first, the escorts were 5 including us」

「Did they got caught in the attack?」

「Yeah, the two left. But not to the underworld, they escaped during fight. From what I think that others demons might have attacked them. Or maybe, they got out of the forest somehow」

Oh my goodness.....

From what I heard after that, apparently Zari fought there for completing the request, but the other two, simply couldn't run because they didn't get an opportunity for that.

Like that, when it became a helpless situation, they abandoned some quantity of food from the commodities, and survived the fight, soon after they were found out by us.

The trader group is in a bad condition even now. I mean in the sense they had to cut off commodities and escorts. In that case, returning to city for replenishing commodities and hiring new escorts would be natural.....no, it would be inevitable.

When I thought that, right there Suura-san cut in,

「No, only we will be returning to city. The people from trader group....., apparently would return to their normal route after getting out of the forest and aim for Listal」

「「「What!?!」」」

And due to the unexpected words, I, Elk as well as Zari leaked out a strange sound from our mouth.

Eh, what does that mean?

Do those people from the trader group plan to go towards Listal without replenishing the goods and fill the empty spots the guards had left?

「Yeah. To tell you the truth, the leader of that group told us this. That the『Escorts are fine till the time we get out of forest, after that we would head towards Listal by ourselves』

「Are they sane? Even if strong demons don't appear on the direct route, but are they seriously willing to go without even refilling commodities and even escorts」

「I too haven't been told anything about that, though being one of those『escorts』」

「No matter how you see it, aren't they too much impatient?」

「Worrying about that, I too suggested them to once again complete the preparations, but they have to deliver some important luggage as fast as possible, so they didn't hear me」

.....? What might it be? They didn't had any raw stuff with them.

If they did want to deliver it, then it would only if they were able to be alive.

「I also suggested to take some of our men as escorts, but they refused. Saying『We cannot endure for making guards, who are responsible for controlling public order to do something like this』something like that」

.....Eeeehh~.....?

Doesn't that sound too much suspicious?

No matter how one thinks, it would be better to let some guards escort them but still they refuse the offer with that forced out unnatural reason and also try to go by themselves.

I could only hear those lines saying that either the cargo or the receiver of cargo is something not good.

I wasn't the only one who thought that. Elk and Zari too made a bitter face on those sentences.

Zari.....looked like he really hadn't been told.

Naturally, Suura-san also thought that, so she tried to enquire more, but they didn't talk anything else and the case got closed.

「By the way, Zari-dono」

「What, captain-san?」

「It's about this trader group. I have only been told about that it is some sort of important cargo, but.....would you, Zari-dono, happen to know what those people are carrying?」

She asked them this too, but they didn't reply.

No, they did reply but it was, 'daily necessities' or 'everything is harmless and inoffensive', they didn't speak anything about that important thing, so sure was suspicious.

They are also unwilling for the guards to enter the luggage carriage.

「It's unfortunate, but even I don't know about the things captain-san is wanting to know. I did get on the luggage carriage but mostly it is all food」

「.....『Mostly』would mean, that there are luggage that aren't food, right?」

「Yeah. There are some firmly packed boxes」

「Boxes?」

「Yes, boxes. I don't know what's inside of them neither did they tell me. It is tied up by a rope and fixed inside the carriage, in place of cushioning substance it is placed in jute bags, and even a smell prevention cloth has been put over it.....so I think it must be something really valuable?」

「? Smell prevention cloth?」

「You don't know? It's a cloth that completely cuts off the scent of the thing it is wrapped against inside out. Like food with bad smell or materials from demons.....and some also use it to carry corpses of people」

Hmm, something that great existed here? New thing to me.

Hearing that, the crease on the temple of Suura-san grew more. Did she found something useful in the talk?

「Smell prevention cloth? Just what are they carrying.....」

「It would only mean it is something that shouldn't be revealed and can be identified with smell, right? Didn't you made a mistake in choosing the quest?」

Zari scratched his hand while muttering some words.

「Don't tell me, they are really carrying corpses, right?」

「I do think so. Every box was about the size of a head of human, no somewhat more smaller」

In that case, unless they are carrying the corpse in pieces, then it is impossible to carry them. In that case, it might be possible too.

But I also didn't think that it was the case.

As for why.....

「I think it is something that has a sweet smell」

「「「Sweet smell?」」」

The three ask me all at once.

While making a face saying they didn't understand what I meant.

「Minato, what do you mean.....by any chance, can you smell the thing on the other side of smell prevention cloth?」

「Eh? Ah, Yeah, a little bit」

In the morning, before departing, when I passed by their luggage carriage.....there was a sweet smell. Only a little smell was there to the extent that someone other than me wouldn't have noticed it.

But because the smell was so faint that it was on my mind. Only my nose, which had been trained & enhanced, could smell it faintly.

The origin of smell was without a doubt inside carriage, but it felt like the scent came from somewhere far.

I see, because of that smell prevention cloth, the smell was faint.

「.....You had good ears, but your nose is the same, eh. Just how much」

「Well if I feel like it, then I can smell and differentiate to the extent dogs can do.....」

Like finding the people I know by following their trail of scent. In truth, during the time of that shitty『test』, I did something similar.

「.....Thank you for giving an answer that surpasses my heightened expectations」

Oh, finally, Elk's reproachful stare had come out. Thank you for the meal

「You're not even a beast person, but you can do that? Really~, the world is a big place~」

Zari laughed dryly. It seemed like accepting reality was difficult for him.In fact, he was still half-convinced.

「.....Sweet smell, something needed to be hidden and『Crimson Forest』in that case don't tell me.....」

After some time passed, Suura-san came back to earth, she reacted to the phrase『sweet smell』which I said.

She once again asked me『Is that true?』, and after I nodded, she once again started to think.

Does she has some idea?

At that time,

SFX: GASHAAaaaNNNn!! (*breaking*)

「「「!?」」」

From the carriage running in front, that sound,

And the sounds of some middle-aged man scream resounded.

By the time I realized the person screaming was the leader of the『trader group』, one of the knights came to Suura-san and rapidly spoke the situation.

Seemed like the two delinquents did something again.

They drank in the day, got drunk, and fell right into the luggages because of unsteady legs.

And in that moment something broke.....seeing that the leader shouted, this much did the knight guy talked.

Did they break some high class wine, the moment I thought that,

「.....Ah, sweet smell」

The『sweet smell』we were talking about right now came drifting from the front.

Just, this time it was different from the morning, it was strong enough that normal people too can smell it.

Did those two.....fell and broke the『luggage』we were just talking?

At that moment,

The three people in the carriage too smelled the scent,

and the moment later, Suura-san gasped and her face color changed.

Before I could even think 'what happened', Suura-san jumped out of the carriage really fast.

And ran towards the front, or maybe to the place where that smell was coming from.

We three also had curiosity, so we chased after her.

When we reach the place, Suura-san was shivering her body while looking inside the carriage. Really what happened?

I looked in the same carriage from Suura-san's right side,

There was a scene I somewhat couldn't understand.

The leader of trader group was making a face as though world has come to an end and was sitting like his hips lost the power,

One of the two delinquents – the obese one – was standing with wine bottle in one hand while making an unpleasant face. He seemed he sobered up.

Suura-san looked all that with cold eyes,

And inside the carriage, the thick liquid, which was also the origin of smell, was spread here and there along with the jar fragments.

It was pretty dark, so I couldn't make out what it was exactly, but it was something of bright red color. Jam?

From what I saw, I could understand that delinquent A got drunk, started playing like fool, tripped and broke the something.

Zari looked from beside me,

「.....Oh this is just too bad.....ain't this『Blood Maple』?」

Said that while stuttering.

Elk came by my side and seeing the scene her face became ghastly pale and her eyes opened wide in shock.

Eh, What, what does this mean!? Explain, I need an explanation. Please!



『Blood Maple』

It was the refined sap from the trunk of some sort of tree, in other words it was a type of maple syrup.

This rich and elegant substance was easy to make but also has depth to it. The person who ate it would get addicted to its sweetness, it could even make nobles with refined palate moan, it was an ingredient that dangerous.

It was a high-class item, common people won't be able to take it, it was traded only at considerably high prices.

In addition, the place with trees having that sap grow in this『Crimson Forest』, and because their numbers are less, so it was more pricey.

They dry up upon taking excessively, so it was always regulated.

But this honey like thing ingredient also required precautions.

Like Alcohol, it also had the effects of arousing mind and raising dependency, so taking too much at once wouldn't be good for body.

With only that it would've been cute, but this『Blood Maple』had a horrible nature that『If it wasn't manufactured correctly, it would lure in the demons present in surroundings』.

Because of that nature this honey like thing had been known as something needs to be treated carefully and during transportation it also need more vigilance.

So for harvesting|manufacturing|transporting and selling, all these needed permission.

Therefore, it almost never made appearance in market.

A part of high class restaurants and nobles had monopolized only a little amount of it as a luxury item.

But there existed the trade behind the scenes for these things. to the extent that it was only natural.

The『Blood Maple』sinking the floor of the carriage in front me was also one of those items.

It was the illegal『Blood Maple』which was harvested and processed illegally, also was being transported in secret to selling

Hence, the subordinates of Suura-san were restraining them, the people from trader group.

I see, the mysteries have been solved.

The reason they wanted to part with Suura-san's group was because they were afraid that if this thing got discovered.

That cloth.....『smell prevention cloth』was used so that no one discovers it by smell. And so that it wouldn't lure in more demons.

As for the reason they were in a hurry was because they had some dangerous people as client in the black market. So, as expected they didn't want to delay the day of trade. Who knows what they might do, right?

One of the concern of those all, right now had become reality.

According to Suura-san, Zari and other two would be taken in for questioning, but the traders would be taken in the prison, no-questions-asked.

Well, it only meant the item was that much great and dangerous thing.

It was due to various coincidences, but like this the smuggling of『Blood Maple』was stopped.

And, by questioning these traders, they would be able to find some information on people in black market.

Well it was due to unexpected good luck, but Hooray Hooray and everyone went back happily after.....

.....Unfortunately, it wouldn't go that way.

Well then, let us take a look at the situation once again.

『Blood Maple』had been scattered in the carriage.

It was thick to the extent it could have been mistaken as honey.....and in proportion, its scent too was strong.

That scent, urges the instincts, arouses.....and lures in demons.

Just what might happen if this maple thing had been scattered in the carriage, which was present in『Crimson Forest』, where demons were many from the start, and were also agitated due to a landslide, furthermore our route had been stopped by that landslide.....

「Umm, Suura-san?」

「.....I'm sorry, but Minato-dono, Elk-dono, because of these idiots the situation is going to change a lot. I want your both help as escorts」

「.....Well we don't have other choices to make」

After confirming our consent, Suura-san went out the carriage,

Then said straightforwardly with all her power.

「Everyone, take emergency battle position! Change of plans, from now onwards we are needed to protect this carriage and leave this place as fast as possible!! If you don't fight with dying will.....then don't think of living!!」

On the other side of Suura-san's command, my enhanced ears,

.....caught the sounds of several tens and hundreds of demons coming here. I could hear their footsteps, flapping of wings and breathing sounds.

It seemed like, this whole would be turning into a battlefield.

Chapter 32 – Forest Mayhem Part 1

Starting with the breaking of the jar containing the『Blood Maple』, the situation changed suddenly.

It was a dangerous honey which ceaselessly lures in, each and every type of demon.

It wasn't even needed to predict, what would happen if one jar containing this highly concentrated honey broke into pieces.

Currently we were running at full speed to get out the forest as soon as possible.

『Leaving from that place』would be a half-assed useless idea, according to Suura-san.

As for the reason, it was scent of『Blood Maple』.

The scent of this honey was so strong, that even if it was put in jar or pot, the scent would leak out of it, that so really easily.

According to Suura-san, normally they would have left the honey, as it would act as a diversion and our safety would increase, but this time these are all smuggling products, so they are needed to be taken back as evidence.

Therefore, the ones that weren't broken have been packed into

carriages of the guards.

The carriage in which the whole honey has been spilled, had strong scent ingrained into it, so let alone the forest, it would be dangerous everywhere, and so we left that carriage behind.

The final blow was that everyone present at that scene had somewhat scent of it stuck to their bodies.

The so-called『lingering scent』. That alone was enough to lure in monsters.

And so currently, we were attempting to run at full speed – at the maximum speed that the carriage could bear/cope with – while intercepting the demons which were attracted by the scent.

The members of squad led by Suura-san too were fighting all-together.

Surrounding the carriage, and with magicians on top of carriage, they were defending it from the demons and were helping the advance of the carriage.

Of course, Elk, Zari, those two delinquents and I, too, were in the frontlines.

If we didn't then the corpses would only increase, so there was no other choice.

Incidentally, my existence was something like that of an striker, I just needed to eliminate the demons interfering.

It wasn't like I couldn't launch long distance attacks, but this way was more of my speciality.

I left the long distance attacks to guards and Suura, and Zari who could use magic,

「Hwochaaaa!!」

While raising a shout resembling to characters in old kung fu movies, I shot out a roundhouse kick towards the front.

With that one attack, I attacked three...four demons who were about to attack the carriage.

With that momentum, I swung my kick towards the rear and got rid of every moving obstacle in my kick's range.

「Ah Minato-kun! I will do some cleaning over there, step aside a little bit!」

The moment my feet landed on ground, Zari said that to me from the roof of carriage.

I glanced from the edge of my eyes, I could see an orange magical power coiling around his hand.

I was in a quite bad place to avoid it with a side step, so I fixed my centre of gravity and step away from there while doing continuous backflips.

「Thank you.....『Sandstorm』!」

In the next instant, including the place I was standing before and the front of Zari, got covered with a sandstorm like magic.

He swepted out the small demons like insects and all, because it was difficult to go in close-combats with them due to their small size.

The demons with big bodies were the only ones left.

I was dealing with them by directly assaulting them. Suura-san too was dealing with them with her bow and arrow and powerful magic.

The demons who would slip through our line of defense, were left to people riding in carriage or people fighting near the carriages. which was the position Elk was given.

Incidentally, Alva was in carriage because the situation was dangerous.

I told it with a great deal of efforts, and now it was obediently waiting for us. It really is smart.

Even so, the demons were too much.....

The numbers couldn't be compared to before the time the『maple』was spilled in that carriage. In 5-10 mins new flock of demons would come, so we had been fighting all time.

There were no casualties so far, but there had been injured people. All of them were guards.

We had been fighting in rotations, but the fatigue was piling up. At this rate, it wouldn't be good.

I was having lot of stamina and magical power left, but this situation wasn't something, I alone would be able to deal with. The thing called as defensive battle had always been a bother.

Furthermore, I was fighting bare-handedly, so compared to Zari who could use magic, the number of demons I could deal at once were lot less. Well for covering it, I was dealing with the big and troublesome opponents.

From that reason, if from here, the numbers of demons didn't go down then the situation would only get worse without getting chance to improve.

So, the plan to leave the forest as fast as possible could be considered as the ideal one here.

「Suura-san, Zari, Elk, can you three hold on? Don't you need some rest?」

「I'm fine. Fortunately, I have more magical power compared to normal people. Though, only half of the arrows are left.....well, we will have to do something, right」

「I'm also fine. It's true that I have gotten somewhat tired, but this isn't the situation to complain for that much of tiredness」

「Keeping it aside, are you alright? You have been fighting since the beginning without taking any rest」

Elk said.

Well, I still had stamina and even my magical power quantity was more, so no problem.

Well, I had still some stamina left, as for my magical power there is a lot left.

And, me getting out right now for rest would.....only be bad.

That was because, the situation currently was only made by me fighting without any rest.

Suura-san too knew about it, though faintly.

She said she was fine. but the guards.....especially, the ones who were fighting by swinging swords and spears were showing the signs of

fatigue reaching its limit. They all needed immediate rest.

Thinking about the fact, that the fatigue would only increase, so I would not leave from here.

Suura-san sent a gaze saying『Please』with an apologetic expression as though she understood the reason I wasn't taking rest.

I don't mind that in particular, but, the people taking rest in carriage are in more trouble right now, right?

The squad was divided in various teams, while one team was taking rest and getting healed by people who can use healing magic, all other teams would be fighting outside, and this was rotated after a fixed time.

However, even with that they wouldn't be able to recover completely and not be able to able to fight for a long time.

In fact, currently too, the fatigue hadn't been cleared out completely.

At this rate, the next might be fine but the rotation after that might give us some casualties or severely injured people.

In that case, the fighting spirit and morale would decrease and it would turn into a disaster.

More than anything, the fighting potential which had already decreased would decrease even more. That would be complete shit.

.....Only if it came to that.

「Umm, Suura-san」

「What happened?」

「Err, for some time starting from now, I will take take charge of vanguards in the front half, so let them all rest in that time」

from now on ,I will take charge if the vanguards in the front half, so let them all rest for some time.

「Wha.....Whaatt!? Just what in the hell are you saying!?!」

A second later, not only Suura-san but Elk and Zari, too, were sending a gaze right at my face that meant『What the hell are you saying!?!』.

「Ah, I'm sorry, but I can only take front half and that is also my limit, so I will leave the demons coming from behind to someone else. And, for the small demons, I leave to you」

「No, will you.....really be fine!? I have seen your strength from before, but taking them all alone will be.....」

「Yes, I will be fine. Just.....」

「Just?」

「.....Fighting bare-handedly was getting tough, so I will be changing my fighting style」

More precisely, I take out a pole from the『storage belt』by wishing『come out』.

Do you remember? This was the one I used to coil『Naga』when taking it out. The black pole which could expand and retract at will.

[AK: always reminds me of Rúyì Jīngū Bàng... for those who do not know what it is, it is the name of the staff of Sūn Wùkōng]

[ET: For those people who are much knowledgeable about it. What AK said is commonly known as Monkey King and its (don't know if it really was male though it is called as King) staff is an expandable one. Quite convenient when putting clothes]

At that point, new flock of demons came, so I moved some more metres forward the guards fighting in the front.

Then, the point when demons reached to the head of pole, I mowed them down while making a line.

[ET: The raw have one character (一), that can be said as line so there you go]

Using that momentum, I raised the pole from down to above diagonally. In those two rounds, one-third of big demons were taken care of.

Then, I step back, 2 steps, and,

「——Expanddddd!!」

The pole expanded several metres, as though it were agreeing to my will. I used the centrifugal force and while making a semicircle in front with the pole, I blew away the demons.

Then, after killing the left one, two demons with my kicks, I faced Suura-san.

「.....Well something like this」

「I-I see..... Try not to overdo it」

Suura got convinced with my current actions, and leaving some guards outside the carriage, she let all others rest in the respective carriages.

「.....I will be accepting your offer for now, but tell me the moment it gets tough for you. Most likely, Minato-dono is the strongest person here. If you get injured, that will be more troublesome」

「Roger. Then, I will leave the dealing of small ones to you. Zari you too」

「Yes go it~. Ah, Elk-chan you should rest now. And wake those two who are sleeping soundly in the carriage, it is time for your rotation」

Zari said.

Elk was killing the bird demon which came flying when she heard Zari's words.

Her movements seemed light, but her shoulders were moving because of breathing, and she was sweating a lot.

「Yeah, understood. I have gotten tired.....and resting will really help」

「Hm, Good work Elk.....don't move!」

Immediately after,

A bird demon assaulted Elk when she was about to go inside the carriage.

Immediately, I took out a different weapon in my free hand.....and threw it towards that demon.

It flew cutting through the air and struck the glabella of bird demon. It was killed and fell down.

Elk was showing an expression of relief and fear just when the danger

coming at her was killed. The demon fell near the carriage, Elk took out the thing I threw while still having that expression and then threw the corpse towards the brushwoods on the side of road.

Seeing that shining thing in Elk's hand, Zari and Knights send a gaze towards it as though they had seen something strange.

Are they not in this world,『shuriken』I mean.

It was something like throwing knife, but because its surface was like a blade, it could be considered dangerous.

Elk was familiar with it because she had been training with me, but when she first saw it, she too was scared.

Incidentally, this thing was made from the same material as Elk's armor, which was supported by Noel-neesan.

It was a throwing item, so including the fact it had a peculiar shape too, it costs quite a bit. Who cares about that, it is cool and easy to use too.

「Elk, you alright?」

「Yeah, you saved me. Thank you」

「I see. Ah, but take this, for just in case. Here catch」

I stopped Elk before she entered the carriage, and threw the vials of medicine by taking them out of backpack.

It was the so-called『Potion』. It was a drinking medicine which reduces the fatigue and recovers the magical power.

Elk told me to buy them because they're useful.....but it didn't had any chance of coming out, so it was one of the items who would've passed their expiration date.

「Use that. It will help you recovering faster, right?」

「Really? What about you?」

「I am fine, and I probably won't need it」

「I see.....thanks. Don't overdo it」

Confirming Elk getting inside the carriage, I, once again faced the flock of demons.

Well~ then, I said something like that in such a grandiose manner, so now, I have to work hard at any cost.

I once again took stance with pole in my right hand, adjusted its length and kicked off the ground.

Chapter 32 – Forest Mayhem Part 2

Several minutes later.

「Suura-san how much more will it take? I've been fighting, so I've got no idea of distance.....」

「Positionally we would be able to leave from this forest in a hour! Everyone, give it your all!」

「「「OooooHH!」」」

The order of Suura-san was the answer to my question and the knights replied in high spirits.

After some time, I took on more demons, which helped most of the knights to recover and we were somehow able to maintain the frontlines.

Yea, it was worth the hard work.

And, Elk too returned to the frontlines some minutes ago.

「Even so, you used a weapon」

「Eh?」

Elk was fighting the flying demons and almost dead demons while standing on top of carriage when she said those words to me. She seemed to have a lot composure due to the daily training

Though.....I had composure to look towards her when answering, but still I talked by just speaking.

「I did know about that『shuriken』, but.....your stick techniques too are good」

「Ah, that you mean. Well, I had briefly been taught by mom about ‘how to use various weapons’ during training」

I learnt not only stick techniques, but also sword, spear, whip and even tonfa.

Naturally, I had practised them all in fights when I was in the woodlands.

「Then why? Why don't you fight using weapons though you're strong when using them?」

「Huh? Did I not tell you?」

「Like I said, it's the first time I see you using weapon. Is there some reason behind it?」

「Ah, Yea. Well, there is」

Well, I had dealt with one more flock of demons right now.....so, I decided to tell her as it would help me take a breather.

The reason I fought empty-handed were divided in two.

I was more specialized in fighting empty-handed, and my power too comes out.

My magic close combat fighting style was to fill up magical power in my body and hit. Really Simple. If it wasn't this simple then I wouldn't had been able to do it.

See, like I have said many times. Magic that would require me to control magical power outside my body would be catastrophic for me.

So inevitably, I use magical power inside my body and it will even increase my attack power. If I used weapons, it would increase my range but the power would be lower compared to hitting directly with punch.

[ET: Yay~ Saitama comes here]

Unlike the close combat in which I used my power, in fights with weapon the flow of battle would be influenced upon the strength and other things of the weapon. So I always used fists when fighting.

It would be somewhat better if the weapon had a mechanism for pouring magical power into it, but still fighting with fists would still be stronger.

In addition, controlling the power..... to put it simply, It is difficult to hold back when using weapons.

Empty-handedly I would be able to control the power, but when using weapons, it would sometimes increase too much and sometimes it would decrease even more.

Taking all that into consideration, using bare-hands, which I could control freely, was the better choice.

As for the other reason.

It was to feel the sensation of hitting something with my body, fists, skin.

The sensation of demon's body being dented, muscles tearing, bones smashing.....and the feeling of demon's life vanishing, those were the things that I wanted to feel.

Let me tell you beforehand that I have no interest in killing demons or anything indiscriminately. On the contrary, without a reason I have never thought of killing.

But, in this world that was impossible. The fights with demons were the sort of thing where words 'either you die or I die' worked.

That was something mom ingrained into my bones during training. I had mind of an adult (different from『mental age』), so I was aware of that.

[AK: Yeah here comes the law of the jungle]

And if necessary, I even would have to fight against humans.

In the fights of 'kill or be killed', where my life would be at stake.

[ET: The words for either you die or I die and this are both different. That's why I have not written them the same, though they mean the same]

So I have beared it in my mind so as to『not forget』that.

I never forgotten the sensation of stealing the life of a single demon each time I attack with my fists.

Every time I punch, kick, the sensation that comes from my fists and legs told me to not forget this feeling.

Otherwise, I would lose every feeling related to fights except ignorance.

I didn't want to become the guy who saw the demons as existences who would just give XP and materials, as though it were a video-game.

Well, in the end it turns out to be self-satisfaction only.

「.....Isn't it childish?」

「Isn't it fine? After all, you're still a child.But」

Elk took a deep breath,

「I think it's splendid. That thinking too and executing your thoughts too. Though, it's my personal opinion」

「.....Thanks」

She praised me and heard my story. Thanks to that, I felt like I had gotten a little bit, only a little bit stronger. I too am the calculating type of person.

Suddenly I faced back towards the carriage and various sorts of stares from Suura-san, Zari and knights came to me.

There were stares filled with admiration, some were with respect, some which I didn't understand, and last were the stares saying they had seen something strange.

.....Among all these, there were also lukewarm stares looking at me and Elk mutually.

I take back my words back from before. I should've chosen place and time before talking.

Okay, now renewing the feelings, and let's get ready for the next attack

of demons.....Hm?

「Ah, hey, Alva! Don't come out, it's dangerous!」

I saw Alva perching on the canopy of carriage.....I didn't knew it came out.

I told it to stay within the carriage obediently. Did it got hungry?

Now that I think about it, ever since giving it food during noon, I had been neglecting it. It sure had lot of appetite even while being a newborn.

Alva was staring at the knights who were standing in the rear of carriage while attacking demons with magic.

It was staring intently. Intently.

Ah, Alva? umm.....

「That's bad Alva. They are not your food, okay? You can't eat them」

Piiiiii?

「Hungry, eh? Okay fine. I will catch something later for you to eat, so wait for the time being」

Piiiiii.....

Hearing our conversation, the magician knights were slightly startled. Ah It would be fine. I will tell it thoroughly that eating humans is wrong, even if they can use magic.

After some time of lecturing, Alva seemed to have understood my words. Well then, now I have to take down some red lizards and magic bunnies.....Oh?

「Then, let's finish the scary talk here. A new group seems to make an appearance」

「So you knew it was a scary talk.....Hey, what is that!?!」

Elk looked towards the way which I was looking at, and raised her voice startled.

Continuing onwards, Suura-san and Zari too opened their eyes wide.

In front stood the insect type demons, having its body covered by a dark brown (almost black) shell.

Its appearance was like a mixture of praying mantis, tiger beetle and G life-form which usually could be found in kitchens. In simple words, it looked truly fiendish with its size that was about two to three metres long.

There were 4 in total. They were intimidating while raising their forefoot.

「.....『Devil Roach』, now something bad came out!」

「Is its name『Devil Roach』?」

「Yeah. It's the race that can be considered as the strongest in this『Crimson Forest』. Normally, they wouldn't come out in shallow areas of forest like here, but.....」

「This too might be the effect of the landslide. This is really the worst scenario」

Zari added in help there.

From what I heard, they are rank C demons. So the same rank as strongest demons of Naga, the『little beast』s.

And there were 5 of them.....as you can see.

Furthermore, it had the name『roach』, meant it was classified as bug.

Though, Suura-san took a great shock but she didn't show any hesitation in taking actions.

She raised her voice so that it could even be heard by knights sleeping

within the carriages.

「Everyone listen! Even the ones who are sleeping! From now (Snap!!) we will leave the minimum members here and rest all will (Snap!!) will go out and start (Snaaapp!!) the subjugation of devil roa- (Breeeeaaaakkk!!!!)-ch.....or so I had thought, but there is no need for that, that's why keep on resting」

What happened?

I took care of all 4 while Suura-san was giving out her speech.

No, well, I couldn't let knights fight against something dangerous. They all were politely intimidating that it seemed like I would be able to take care of them quickly.

With one-hit-one-kill, I mowed them all them.

After throwing the corpses of cockroach monster x4 so that it wouldn't become hindrance for carriages, I suddenly looked behind only to find Suura san doing a facepalm and others looking in mute amazement.

Oi, everyone don't daze out and fight? Do you want to die?

「No, well.....you were this sort of guy after all」

「Eh, Elk you too? I thought you will understand me」

「About what? Your monstrous conditions?」

So meanie.

「.....Well, I have no complaints because there was no injuries. Thank you Minato-dono」

「Minato-kun we can really rely on you, seriously~」

Suura-san with a stiff smile and Zari along with his dry laughter said those words.

Hmph, you can keep on that. I'm a monster for you all.

[ET: Minato says in a tone as though saying 'like you all will understand my feelings'. Well something like that]

But these guys were living in this forest too. Nostalgic, huh.

「? Were they living in those『woodlands』too?」

「Yes. But they were the bottom in the food chain」

They lived in caves, and only had large numbers.

Well, I had seen them getting eaten by other strong demons as food.

「.....Bottom.....the strongest rank c monsters of『Crimson Forest』are.....
at bottom.....」

Setting aside Elk who was making a distant look,

「Umm, Suura-san, can you take back the order from before?」

「hm? What do you mean?」

No, I meant that take out everyone and tell them to keep their guard up.

Because, It is soon going to turn into a situation where that will be needed.

「? What do you mean? The devil roaches all have been eliminated.....do you mean reinforcements!?!」

「Yes, and that too.....seems freakishly more dangerous compared to big c**kroaches」

.....I have been hearing it from before.

The sound of super-extra-large wings fluttering and it was giving me dangerous feeling.

The volume had already increased to the level that even Suura-san and others could hear.

it was getting louder and louder. No doubt about it, it was the sound of an insect's wings.

And, on the faces of everyone near the carriage impatience and confusion appeared.....the next second,

Along with the sound of over-sized wings『Buuuuuuunnnn!!』, a green colored shadow landed in front us.

Chapter 33 – Exceed Hopper

「.....Grasshopper?」

「Grasshopper it is」

「Yeah sure is」

「No doubt it is a grasshopper」

Appearing in front us, stopping the path of carriage was a..... grasshopper.

Its appearance was fiendish, and its overall length was about 3 m.

Its shell was more tough looking than the armor of Naga's scales.

Face was, definitely not of the grasshoppers I had seen, so it was a demon. I could see fangs inside the mouth. It even had horns in place of antennas.

Legs x6 too had evenly separated fingers. This was.....not an insect anymore.

There was no other component on which I could identify it, so for now I would call it grasshopper, and the only thing I know right now was that, this was completely showing its hostility towards us.

It must be natural after all, it was lured in by the scent of『maple』and also was hungry.

Well, I know one more thing, that this guy was a lot more dangerous than the『devil roach』from before.

「Elk, do you know it?」

「No, I've never seen it. In the first place, a big grasshopper type of monster shouldn't be present in this forest.....grasshopper, grasshopper.....」

「.....There is a high chance that this is a『Exceed Hopper』」

Suura-san answered by cutting in our conversation.

「Exceed Hopper?」

.....Why does it feel like I've heard it somewhere recently.....

「Yeah, its rank is B. Certainly it doesn't live in this forest, but it's a demon which inhabits in the different danger area lying in the opposite direction from the city」

The moment she heard that explanation, Elk widened her eyes in shock,

It couldn't be helped. It already had fiendish appearance, and its rank too was above the previous group.

How many people might be there who could fight a guy like this?

From what I heard, the subordinates of Suura-san were inexperienced, though being regular soldiers. If we were to give them ranks like adventurers it would be at most E or D. Not much different from Elk.

Though those two delinquents were rank D, even if both of them teamed up together, it would be impossible to stand against a rank B.

The left ones were, Suura-san, Zari and me.

Frankly I would somehow take care of myself. But, I have no idea about both of their strengths.....

Well seeing their fights from before, I could understand that they were experienced. Bow and arrow, and magic attacks of Suura-san and attacks by Zari had stability.

In addition.....I found one big problem.

This was not noticed by others yet.....

「By the way, are there points I need to keep in mind? Like, its weak points or will other of them will come if I defeat it」

「No, other than its strength, there's nothing else. Surely it has somewhat intelligence and it might concentrate attacks on the person with most strength, but that's something every demon does」

「I see.....too bad」

「? What do you mean.....?」

Before Suura-san finished saying,

I had already kicked off the ground and flew towards『Exceed Hopper』, it too had jumped at us around the same time as me.

I use the pole as shield to stop its assault while trying not to get hurt by the sharp pointed horns.

Surprisingly, the shock was so strong that it sent me two or three metres back, but I somehow held out.

.....Thank god, its name wasn't just for fun.

Then, it bite the pole that was being pressed against its face with its fiendish jaws.

The pole wasn't something soft that it would be broken by just this much, then in the next moment, I felt the sensation of being pulled strongly and suddenly my body floated.

Hearing the damn noise of wings, I understood that it flew while holding pole in its mouth. So did it want to have an aerial battle or want to kill me by dropping.....

I didn't know what it wanted to do, but I had no intention of going along with it.

Furthermore, Elk's voice which I could hear from below seemed so have a trace of worry.

I don't want to get a girl worry about me, let's finish this fast.

While having the pole in its mouth, I turned my body before its very own eyes in some sort of rhythmic gymnastic form and rolled over to its back side.

Then, I left the pole for a moment, joined my hands together – of course, I didn't forget to enhance the power and fill in magical power – then dropped it like a hammer.

「——Urrraa!!」

Along with the dull sounds, due to my attack near its medulla oblongata (does an insect even have one?), the giant body started to fall down.

Apparently, the brain of insects had always been small, so I wasn't expecting some concussion, simply the damage seemed to be great. The flapping of wings became unreliable and it crashed into ground.

And, it would be unbearable to fly again, so I deal with it quickly.

Around the neck part of this grasshopper which was trying to stand up.....

「『Guillotine Leg』!!」

I swung my heel clad in wind magic.

The axe kick which was launched with sharpness of a windblade, though didn't made the sound of wind cutting something, but it surely did drop the head.

「.....Fuu」

Really, this technique hasn't been my favorite. This techniques was grotesque and lots of blood also comes out.

But, insects all had strong vitality, so defeating without killing would be really hard. I didn't want a situation in which others got hurt because I went easy on it and left it alive.

Well, I could make it immovable by tearing off the wings and legs, in that case, either it would starve to death or be eaten by other demons.

It would be better to finish it off an instant rather than inflicting pain..... oh, this too could be called as self-satisfaction.

Even after cutting the neck, the body of insect convulsed and wriggled, so I threw it towards the grove of trees. Like this it won't be a hindrance for carriage.

I prayed in my heart, for a happy next life of the demon who became my victim, then refreshed my feelings, and faced back.

This is something.....for me who would do this from now on too.

Fuu, while taking a breath, I took the pole from grasshopper's body, then

『stored』it back into the waist belt, while I was doing that,

「.....After coming this far, I've nothing left to say. You actually insta-killed that exceed hopper, eh」

Suura-san said those words along with a tired smile that seemed like she had given up upon understanding all the fears and surprise she felt in this short amount of time.

Zari, Elk and others too were having same expressions. Elk was a little better because she knew about my strength.

「From what I heard, your rank is B, right.....?」

「Yeah, that's right. In that case, should I show the guild card?」

「No, it's fine. Either way, I wouldn't be able to understand many things」

Saying that, Suura-san took her stance, and turned back for taking on the demons,

.....and soon enough, she realized almost all demons were missing.

She showed a surprised expression for a second, then as if finally passed through her, she breathed and let power out of her shoulders.....
hey, don't do that, the fight is still not over. It's only starting now.

「Hey, Suura-san and others who let their guards down, don't do that.
The fight is still not over」

「? Not over, well right we have to deal with other attacks until we leave this forest」

Elk said.

「I have no time to put on airs, so let me speak it loud and clear.
The『Exceed Hopper』I defeated just now.....was probably only a scout member. There is a whole『crowd』of them in the vicinity」

「「「Huh!?!」」」

Oh, they harmonized. Elk & others, good job.

Though Suura-san didn't let out a voice she was also surprised.

「.....What did you base it on? Just how did you predict it?」

「Rather than predicting it, I have been hearing them since a while. The sound of their wings」

With my thoses words, the whole party went into silence.

Then, the sounds of leaves of trees fluttering and cries of demons on the other side of trees too was mixed in.....

.....And I heard it. The sound of wings which could be heard without any enhanced hearing ability,

No doubt, the sounds were of the same thing from before.

However, from all directions. They had surrounded us.

「.....How many are there?」

「Maybe eight or nine. There is only one exceptionally big wing sound mixed in」

「Exceptionally big.....? Is there some other demons with them?」

「Dunno.....seeing with eyes is the fastest way to confirm things」

Immediately after,

Green colored demons came flying from inside the grove of trees as though they were getting impatient and saw that the current time as a good opportunity to strike.

In an instant, a large group started flying, seeming like forest had started to fly.

The 8『Exceed Hopper』sstarted revolving above our heads like vultures aiming for their prey.

The sound of 8 wings vibrating the space.....encouraged the sense of urgency.

「If an insect-hater saw this, that person would surely go down」

「Even if they aren't they would go down, in despair and fear that is」

Wisdom words from Suura-san.

In fact, I was able to read the strange expressions, filled with fear, shock, despair on everyone's face.....while they were looking at the scene unfold.

Among the knights, there were people who dropped their weapons in

despair, some were having their bodies tremble and the armor was making clattering sounds.

「8 in total. Frankly, this is a desperate situation」

「No shit.....captain-san, can you solo it?」

「.....It would work in one-on-one fights. How about you, Zari-dono?」

「I too.....am something similar. If I overdo it then around 2」

「Oh, that is reliable」

Eh? wtf!? Zari, you were really that much strong?

Now that I think about it, I never asked about his rank.....it might be around B or A, right?

「Well then, as for other 6.....some people can make up teams, then defend and stall them.....but that won't work in this situation」

As expected. The men and women of the knight squad, both have lost their fighting spirits.

「Yeah, but we can't call that weak or miserable. That reaction is the normal one」

「It sure is, right. And in that case.....how about it Minato-kun who just insta-killed one? Can you handle the other five somehow?」

「.....It would be more easier if all came at me at once」

「Will you fine then?」

Zari was surprised because he was expecting an answer『It will be impossible!』.

No well, didn't I ask before to Suura-san that『will other of them will come if I defeat it』, right?

At that time, I already knew the existence of their group.....so I thought it would be less troublesome if they all came at me at once.

No, it wasn't like I would fight them easily? Even I would have trouble fighting eight or nine of flying demons.

But in situations like these, it was more difficult to fight while protecting the comrades.

Furthermore this time, not only enemy numbers are big, but so are the comrades.

To add in more, almost all have lost fighting spirit, and wouldn't be able to run easily or even defend.

If the morale was high, then having more numbers would be good, but the moment it turns like this, they only turn into burden. Well, in this case, they can't be blamed.

Suura-san would take one, Zari would on one or maybe two, and others me.....it would be difficult to fight while protecting everyone.

At times like this it sure could be painful that I couldn't use magic. At most I could take on two or three at once, in that time if other grasshoppers attacked others, then I wouldn't be able to save them.

So, protecting everyone till the end was even more difficult.

Against these many, protecting Elk alone was my limit.

.....And, one more thing had been on my mind from before.....

「Suura-san, it's about that one, the first from other side.....doesn't it look somewhat different?」

In front of the place my finger pointed.....there was one individual completely different from all other『Exceed Hopper』s.

Its shell was very dark green compared to others, the body too was big.

It even had thorn growing on its legs, which made it look more fiendish.....and maybe it might be imagination, but there seemed to many fangs inside its mouth.

「Ah, I've heard about it」

Zari said.

「Among the Exceed Hoppers, rarely, some『subspecies』are born and have dark green body color. They not only have powerful physical ability compared to normal species, but also has magical power」

「.....It's rank is?」

「If I remember correctly, it is A」

「.....Didn't want to hear that」

.....『Exceed Hopper』, furthermore『subspecies』, this was certainly.....

Ah, that's right, I thought I had heard this name somewhere. This was from that『List』.

That『Become an Adult! Subjugation Target Demon List』which I got from Irene-san the other day.

It was written in there, no wonder it was strong.

So it was the sound source for that more loud sound of wings.

Anyhow, I couldn't help but say that the current situation was really bad.

There were 8 exceed hoppers in air. Rank B.

Furthermore, one of them was an『subspecies』of rank A.

On the other hand, everyone had lost their fighting spirit. And from the fact there was no reaction from those inside the carriage would also mean the same thing.

The only ones who could fight were Suura-san, Zari and me. Just us three.

Elk had some past experience during Naga, so she was better than others, she was also standing on her feet.....but her fighting strength was not much.

Defeating them all while protecting everyone could only be considered as herculean task. Running away was even more impossible.

In that case.....

「Suura-san, Zari, Elk, I will say this only once, so please listen carefully」

Calming my heart to the extent I could, I called out to everyone.

I would talk to Suura-san too, so I spoke in formal tone.

「? What happened, Minato-dono?」

「Did you come up with some strategy?」

「.....Minato?」

「No, not a strategy, but.....」

At that moment,

「D-Don't fuck wit me! With this.....With this, I will die!!」

「I don't fucking care about it! I-I'm running away from here!」

「O-Oi wait! Let me come too.....」

When I thought I heard those voices.....the two delinquents tried to run from one carriage on the other side in a state of confusion after being cornered by a single exceed hopper.

No, they had already started to run.

But,

「Oi wait! If you become separated from here after going out right now, it will only.....」

Before Suura-san finished speaking,

As expected, one of the grasshopper came flying down with its mouth wide open for eating the two prey who got separated from our group.

Suura-san took her stance and released the arrow in a second, her expression said 'words won't help but hands will', but because she released the arrow in a second, she wasn't able to clad it in magic, so it struck the hard shell and fell down.

Exceed hopper opened its mouth for biting of the heads of two without caring about what happened right now.....and the next instant,

「.....It can't be helped anymore, eh」

SFX: *Dogoo*

Along with a dull sound, on its flank something collided.....it couldn't bear the shock, and went flying away, and soon crashed down.

「「「!?!」」」

Suura-san and others looked while being surprised at what just happened. Something fell from the stomach of grasshopper who wasn't able to move as it wanted while its body twitched. The thing fell on the

ground with a thud.

It was a black.....iron ball.

It was the iron ball I threw just now, its size was two times bigger than clenched fists and had a same colored iron chain attached to it.

One end of the chain attached was being gripped by my hand.

This chain-attached-iron ball too was an item I got from before leaving the home.....and was stored in the belt since beforehand.

In this situation it couldn't be helped, and I had to resort to using this.

.....This really is dangerous.

And.....that too which I will use from now.

「Suura-san, please give out orders」

「Orders?」

Suura-san seemed like she hasn't caught up with the situation. Her voice had somewhat bewilderment.

But, ignoring it, I simply tell her what to do.

「I'm gonna go rampart from now. If, at that time others are near me it would only act as hindrance, so let them take shelter near the carriage or inside them. Even so it might be dangerous, so everyone should lay down. I will try to not get carriage and everyone involved」

「.....? What are you trying to do?」

「I will omit the explanation. You two over there.....」

Before finishing saying, I moved my hand which wasn't holding the chain towards the iron ball lying on ground.

When I did, the iron ball hovered in air and returned to me.

I caught it, after holding the side with iron ball attached, I had lot of chain space, so I threw the other side, it collected the two delinquents lying on ground like a lasso, then I suddenly pulled them back. Just like that, I threw them inside the carriage.

I looked back, to see everyone moving their almost-not-responding-legs and gathering near the carriage, after Suura-san gave the orders without understanding the situation herself.

Alrighty, now I could move more easily. Now, the next.

「Eh everyone. This situation is like this, so I have no time to explain, but pinch your noses」

I said just that.

As expected, everyone looked like they didn't understand anything. Among them, Suura-san and Zari and half of them did as ordered while showing bewilderment.

Elk too did it while knowing what I was going to do, she knew it because of everyday training.

It was good that I showed her this before.

The other half people still haven't pinched their noses, but I couldn't wait anymore,

「——Here I go!!」

And the moment later, the magic I invoked.....invades that place.

「——!!?」

That something which scattered with me as the centre, jolted the brains of everyone present there.

That something, which was similar to『intimidation』used by masters who train in martial arts or something else, spread in the whole surroundings and the atmosphere changed rapidly.

The knights were now not moving even a bit which they could before. Among them, there were people who fainted, maybe mental fatigue too kicked in. As for those who didn't pinch their noses.....they all fainted.

Suura-san and Sari were standing somehow bearing the unrest.

Elk was also in a similar position, but because she knew what would happen, so she looked somewhat better.

And, the grasshoppers in the surroundings, though didn't retreat or faint.....but they did increase awareness concentrated to me.

The me, who was the centre of their attention.....was clad in a mist of black and violet, the color of something like darkness.

[ET: Go and see the picture of MnD on project page. That thing on his hand is the one he is using currently]

It was the attribute which was my speciality, the『darkness』magical power.

The power didn't grew like『earth』, and speed to lost to『wind』. The destructive power or additional effects like『fire』and『lightning』, weren't present within

『darkness』.

However, it was too powerful to regard it as jack-of-all-trades-master-of-none. It was endowing me with an all-rounder magical power.

This power could increase, physical strength, agility, reaction speed, defense power etc all at once. I hadn't used in a while, but this was my original-by-nature power.

As for why I hadn't used it till now, the reasons were three.

First. I didn't had any need to use it.

I had been able to get through with just pure magical power filling without any changing in attributes.

Second. It was a really rare power.

Compared to other six attributes, the people having talent to use『darkness』and『light』were extremely rare. Statistically, there were chances of a person having them in the ratio of one person among several hundreds.

So, if others knew I could use something rare, others would pay attention to me, and some noisy people would come to me.

Third. I didn't use it because『darkness』was different from『light』and was an evil power used by devil within the country and other places. So, it was detested.

It seemed like something scary and troublesome like religion would target me.

[ET: Demons (魔物) devil (悪魔), I don't know if it was the typo by author, though this guy does have many in all chapters]

[AK: could you give me the line, I don't think it is a typo, I would like to check if my idea is correct, because if i remember correctly you can use both but the implication is somewhat a little different]

[ET: Till now the author never used devil but demon, and they both are different things. Devils are evil spirits or some more bigger entity while demons are evil fodders (mutated animals)]

I had been told about the second and the third by mom before.....she told me not to use them, and even without using them I was able to get by, so I hadn't used it till now.

But, right now, the opponents were strong, numbers big, so just in case I used it.

Though I used this magical power.....it had no relation with that『intimidation』just now.

More precisely, wasn't intimidation something like colliding spiritual power and was only used by masters?

And, in fact, I couldn't do it. Never knew the way to do it, after all.

No, I did try to do it during my training with mom, but unfortunately, maybe because of my youthness and inexperience, I wasn't able to do it.

So, I made this magic as its alternative method.

And the name was『Magic Pheromone』

『Pheromone』.....the secretion substance released by living things, for several hundreds of things like, warning, courting, commanding, tranquility etc, acts upon the parts of brain directly to give out some effects.

Tampering those parts with magical pheromones to give out even more effects on my own will, that's what this magic was about.

A typical example of that would be the『intimidation』I just used.

This technique releases magic from my body of one sort of pheromones such as『warning pheromone』, so by increasing the effect on parts of brain, for intimidating and scaring opponent, this magic could give out the effect same as『intimidating』someone.

It was an colorless, tasteless and odorless magic, so it couldn't be sensed by anyone neither can be defended. It affects the instincts directly, so if something went wrong, it would give out something more powerful than a normal intimidation.

But, it had a fault, because of that I hadn't used it even once.

This magic, upon being released from my body couldn't be called back, and could tamper with demons and people present in the area indiscriminately. Adjusting too was almost impossible.

In addition, though it had magic blended it was a chemical substance, the scattering point.....in other words, the person near my body would have a more stronger effect while the person far would have less.

So, if something went wrong, the comrades near me would be strongly affected by it and turn incompetent. Just like the knights who fainted.

And, it didn't reach completely to the enemy far away.....

But in this situation, the knights would only be burden if they moved while they wouldn't be of any help currently. So for stopping it I used this.

Incidentally, pheromone could be sensed by nose, so I had them pinch their noses.....so how was it? It might have been better than not pinching the nose, right?

.....Well, whatever.

Well, now, the grasshoppers had stopped their movements due to bewilderment.

I held the iron ball in my hand with tight grip strength for throwing it

towards the grasshopper who was the most far away.

「First one to attack wins!『Linear Cannon』!!」

[AK: I would almost say leave it at romaji same as above]

[ET: So you say I leave it as Rinia Cyanon (リニアキャノン)?]

Immediately after,

The iron ball which was in my hand went flying with unbelievable momentum and speed towards the grasshopper which was hovering in air and was far away.

Then, the chain was tensed due to the attack, I swiftly pulled it back..... and swung it horizontally.

「——Orrrrrrrrraaaaahhhhhhhh!!!」

Originally, iron balls with chain were to used by using centrifugal force to attack, but sorry for being rude to that theory and using brute force.

In accordance to my pulling horizontally, the chain and iron ball drew a horizontal track in air, and mowed down all the grasshoppers in that track.

In doing so.....the trees present in the attack too were mowed down

quite cruelly. I'm sorry.

As soon as the front half calmed down in a semicircular shape, I jumped right above.

If I swung again, there was chance that it would engulf Suura-san and others near the carriage, so I changed the trajectory.

So, after jumping to height on which they wouldn't become obstacles, I swung with all my strength.

「——One more coming!!」

Without changing the momentum, I revolved once then once again.

While shifting the trajectory slightly, not changing the speed and momentum during swinging, the iron ball rampaged freely.

With a total of three rotations, it hits six out of eight grasshoppers, including the subspecies and they all crashed down.

I couldn't get them all, but this would be fine.

Aiming at one of the left two, I revolved once again and threw the iron ball along with chain towards it, just like in hammer-throw.

The grasshopper which was feeling relaxed for being away from the

attacks before suddenly got a hit right in the face.

Just like that, the iron ball sank into it making a big hole, and the grasshopper died.

At that moment, the other one jumped at me with happiness because I had thrown my weapon.

.....But, its awareness was really immature.

I towards that grasshopper.....more precisely, I moved my one hand towards the grasshopper which died right now, with this last guy in between us both, and in the next instant,

While making a dull sound, the iron ball which was inside the corpse of grasshopper came flying in and hit the rear flank of this last grasshopper diagonally.

Just like that, the iron ball came flying to me along with the grasshopper.

It was attracted to me due to the『magnetic force』which I made by using『earth』and『lightning』.

It was one of the techniques I developed during the training with mom, It could only attract or repel, but I increase the speed in a straight line just like how I did before, in short it could turn into a Coilgun.

[ET: Coilguns are distinct from railguns, as the direction of acceleration in a railgun is at right angles to the central axis of the current loop formed by the conducting rails. In addition, railguns usually require the use of sliding contacts to pass a large current through the projectile or sabot but coilguns do not necessarily require sliding contacts. By the way, using coilguns is really good, you guys should also make it at home (oh a video how it works <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LjnhhtHojM>). Oh, be sure not to use on humans, the speed is still around that of a revolver (somewhat old one), ofc you can increase the speed. Furthermore, it is legal unless and until you don't do shit around with humans and animals]

Well however, that wasn't an『iron』ball, but a magic item I got from mom, it was made from a special magical metal.

That iron ball left the body of grasshopper, eventually only the iron ball came flying back to me. The place which seemed to be the place iron ball struck it was cruelly smashed in and it wasn't able to fly properly.

However, it wouldn't be able to live easily if I left it. So, I would finish it.

I swung the iron ball by pulling the chain part, and with that momentum strike it from top.

That iron ball used centrifugal force, and struck the grasshopper then both went flying down on the ground. An about 10 metres wide, big crater was formed.

The ground of the surroundings did shake as though there was an earthquake, but fortunately, the carriages were not toppled over neither

broken. With this the last two done in.

With the three rotations I did before, 3 were dead, but somehow other 3 were alive.

『Subspecies』too was among those three.

Then suddenly, from the edge of my vision, a blue arrow came flying and struck one of the living grasshoppers. It struck precisely in the gap of shell, the throat.

I looked the direction arrow came flying in, and as expected, Suura-san stood there.

She was standing while holding her favorite bow, and was paying attention towards the grasshopper she just shot the arrow towards.

Immediately, she puts her hand on the bowstring though she didn't had any arrow.

Then, an arrow of the same color as the magical power in her hand was made nocked on the bowstring, then released just like a normal arrow.

It struck in the same way as before, and killed the living grasshopper this time.

「Fuu.....was that unnecessary for you?」

「No, it was splendid. But still, an arrow of magic.....you could even do that」

「Though it has power , but it has heavy magic consumption as you can see. It is not thing that can be used always」

「Minato-kun, you can use various sorts of weapon, right」

Said Zari from the side.

He hadn't attacked yet, but because he was in fighting stance, it seemed like he too was prepared for fight.

The two face the other grasshopper which was about to recover from damage.

「We will take care of that one somehow. So Minato-kun.....can you please on that boss?」

Saying that, Zari glanced that boss.

The exceed hopper (subspecies) which was in more good form even after getting hit by the iron ball.

It must have some intelligence, that's why it hadn't come at us even after recovering and was waiting and observing us.

And the even more bizarre thing was, the cloud of sand rising with a vortex of wind, which wasn't present before.

There were no after-effects from the battle before too, then that is.....

「Minato, isn't that.....『wind』magic?」

「Oh, Elk-dono you have magic perception talent?」

「Rare, isn't it? Knowing the existence of magic is different, but people who can even sense the attribute of magic are really rare.....well, that one magic is more obvious, so it can be seen just by looking」

Huh? Is that true? I didn't knew.

Elk and I were able to discern the attribute of magic normally, so I never thought much about it. We both easily noticed when the demon opponent used magic.

Maybe, Elk has really great talent in magic realm?

Well, the thing that grasshopper was clad in was without a doubt『wind』magic.

Just like Zari said, that thing was obvious even by looking, now that I think about it, there was low resistance compared to other grasshoppers when I used iron ball.

Seeing the wind swirling around it.....makes me think it might be some sort of wind barrier, or maybe not?

Let's check it.

Again collect the iron ball with magnetic force, and throw it towards the subspecies using 『Linear Cannon』

Then, from the moment I moved my hand which was holding iron ball, the wind around subspecies became violent and assaulted the flying iron ball.

Result? Though it wasn't completely blocked, but it was repelled after striking the shell with a thud. This time it didn't even take a damage.

「It really is wind barrier magic」

Sure enough.....argh, so envious.

「I threw with lot of power.....it sure has high defensive power」

「It was indeed fast, and that iron ball too seems heavy. How heavy is that?」

「Around 150 kg」

「Eh, that much!? But only has the size of a fist!?!」

Yeah. That much.

Though, that iron ball had a terrible nature which completely disregards laws of physics, that was『weight increase upon pouring magic』.

Normally its weight was 5 kg without any magic inside it, but at most it could increase to one ton.

Current weight of that iron ball was more than 150 kg. That was the reason I was able to make the grasshoppers crash even though they had hard shell and were 3 m long.

Incidentally, the defensive power to block that attack completely..... subspecies, along with magic, you rock.

It might be different, if I put in more magic and attack on its vitals or when it might be flying.

But that would be too much of a hassle, and I could sense that the fight on Suura-san and Zari's side was about to end,

「Bring it on! One-on-one, no tricks allowed!」

I『store』the chain-attached-ironball in the belt, and after slightly long time I clenched my fists.

At that moment,

SFX: *KisHHAaaaaaAAAaaaAA!!*

The subspecies raised a cry that didn't seem of an insect, and came flying at me after kicking the ground. It might have seen this as a good opportunity, now that weapon was out of my hands.

It wasn't so fast that I couldn't dodge it, but I just had no reason to dodge.

I would make the other side move aside.....with brute force.

「Don't you damn.....come here!」

I punched it from side like a hook while it was approaching me with the momentum and intimidation of a missile.

[ET: wrestling lariat, but in this case from the side]

The hook which completely grabbed the face of subspecies, was thrown to the left side of road while making side rotations.

Tohugh cracks appeared in the shell.....but the subspecies reformed its posture within air and upon landing glared at me.

At that moment, the whirlpool of wind got stronger, and due to the

cloud of dust near its feet my vision worsened.

But, it didn't seemed like it aimed for a smokescreen effect from that. It was making『KissshaaaAAAAaaaa』like crying sounds and footsteps too were noisy.

.....However,

The wind that rose up did work that made want to wish that it was just a smokescreen.

The wind swirling around, condensed in front of grasshopper.....and the next instant,

That compressed air made a bursting sound then scattered, and then came at while cutting and gouging out the ground —Due to cloud of dust, I was able to see its trajectory—. There were sharp scars as though the ground was cut by blade.

Don't tell it's wind blades!? Is that some sort of wind attack magic!?

Though it won't hurt me even if I get hit by that, but for just in case I evaded with a side-step.....then a more surprising attack came.

One of the thorns growing on the front legs (the two foremost legs)..... came at me like tentacles.

That too, not something like sea anemone which would be drawn of

package of R-18 games.....but it was something like that of a centipede along with an additional solid『shell』, frankly put, I didn't know if it was right to even call it as tentacles.

It seemed like hard, sharp and jagged. It was something like tail of lizard and snake and looked fiendish and strong, but I surprisingly I couldn't sense any killing power in it.

I fall back but the tentacles followed, so in turn I diagonally jumped forward and before the tentacles turned around to follow me, I leapt back.

A second later, though I evaded the tentacles, but the place which got attacked — the place I jumped away from— had the all the trees smashed.

Oh that was quite a brutal attack.....iron might not be useful against it.

I see.....it sure had power, so that's why Irene-san had put its name on『List』.

Simple horsepower aside, wind magic and tentacles.....and mobility by flying in sky, taking all that into consideration told me that its comprehensive offensive ability was higher than that of『Naga』.

There was no confirmation that what I just saw were all of its attacks..... it would be dangerous if the fight was prolonged and I let my guard down.

Then this time, it unfolded the wings, and flapped them.....then the air converged and it came towards like a cannonball of air.

I read the trajectory thanks to the cloud of dust, but.....it was faster than the wind blades and I got hit by it.

Its power was not inferior to the charge of『Naga』.....but!!

「S.I.M.P.E.I.S.....Beeeeesssstttttttt!!!」

[AK:?????? dont get that]

[ET: It says 'simple is best']

I daringly to compete in a power competition!

I put magical power in my legs to stand firmly and bear the attack for not getting blown away by the shock.

I cut through it, or rather pushed it away and start a frontal charge..... the moment most of the air was gone, I kicked the ground with full force.

The tentacles came this time but I used them against itself!

I caught them which were trying to tear in two pieces from middle and pull them.

The tentacles was considerably powerful, so when I pulled, the main body too came flying in.

The surprised (it looked like) subspecies somehow stood back, but our distance was now half than that of before, furthermore its stance was broken. Lucky chance.

In no time, I approached it, and this time I used my hand like a sword to strike in the gap of shell present near its throat.

My hand sword pierced till my wrist and half elbow was inside it.

Like that I put power in my whole body, especially in shoulders and hands, and stand up while raising the skewered subspecies.

And, with that big body above me.....

「Fire up!!!! Something inside of meeeee!!!」

I concentrate the fire attribute magic in my hand stuck inside it.....and burn the body of enemy from inside.

Though『Exceed Hopper subspecies』has a hard shell, but if the soft meat parts, the insides of its body were burnt it couldn't stand a chance.

Maybe its body was burnt from inside, black smoke started to come out of the mouth and other body parts. It struggled by moving its six legs.

From the gaps of shell, sometimes fire too seeped out.

However, that was for only some seconds.

Along with agony death cries, it convulsed and stopped moving.

I got the feeling of the meat inside its body gotten soft and crispy too, just like yakiniku.....quite difficult to explain that strange feeling.

After waiting for it to die, I roughly swung my left arm and threw that well-roasted corpse.

It landed in the middle of road while making a dent.

.....I shouldn't have thrown it in the middle. It would only be a hindrance.

Thinking that, I raised it once again to throw.....but then I realized.

.....It had magical power.

Furthermore, though it was too big, but was a『bug』, so it would be good, right?

Alrighty, though it was demon it too have『life』. I have to use it effectively.

I looked towards the carriage, confirmed others had completed their work,

「Alva thanks for the wait, here is you meal!」

Then called my new comrade for having this little, no very much wonderful lunch.

Chapter 34 – Magic and Poison and Memory

「I as prepared for this, but.....looks like it's going to turn troublesome again」

「Isn't it fine, not like there is some disadvantage. Well, being the center of attraction is indeed not a comfortable feeling」

Here is city of Volca.

We returned to the inn at full speed, asked Tanya-chan to refuse every sorts of interviews and every other thing, and were stuffed in the room. After that we retreated into our room.

.....I don't want to go out for a while.

We had to report about the quest within the time limit.....that is by day after tomorrow, so we would have to go to the Guild for giving the wrists of Kobold as proof.

But well, waiting a little bit more for the situation to calm down would be better than going to guild which is currently in great turbulence. At least it would be good if I can think like that.

Currently, the Guild was bustling with activity, so it was doubtful if they would even pay our quest any attention.

So like that we returned to our rooms in inn, and were in the middle of

relaxing ourselves from fatigue caused by fighting for many hours.



After going through the fierce battle, we returned to the city of Volca and were engulfed in a great uproar, to the extent that the uproar caused during the『Naga』-case seemed as a joke.

Well, thinking the things that happened during the time of our return, it was natural.

And, we also brought the corpses of the『exceed hopper』which had a good condition by tying them up in the carriages.

Seeing that, the city-people were noisily talking while standing on the edge of street.

During that time, the center of defense, me (dressed in black), was riding the leading carriage, so I was seen by other adventurers who crossed by us.

That reason, and the fact Elk said she was really tired, were the reasons we returned to city, dashed to inn and secluded ourselves in the rooms.

As the platoon leader, Suura-san, was dealing with the after effects related to this case and was reporting about it. It's not like we had heard about that, but she said it would become like this.

The smuggling of『blood maple』was discovered, furthermore, there was great possibility that due to the landslide this time, the ecosystem of the『Crimson Forest』might have changed. So it is needed to report back to the Guild and the Army about this information/intell, after that there is also the need to investigate and explore about this.

, therefor is also a need for (recon)/(investigation and exploration) the area. [AKs alternative version]

Management sure is very tiring.

Those two delinquents, after returning to city, stuffed themselves in their rooms, it seems.

Though they were injured but not to the extent of a grave injury. Rather than physical injury, the problem might be a mental shock.

For Suura-san and other knights from the guard troop, it is like a good thing, that haughtiness is shivering in the rooms.

It is understandable, after all they are rank D and were cornered by the crowd of rank B or rank A.

After calming down, at a later date, they will carry out the hearing along with us.

Furthermore, I heard this accidentally from the subordinate members, that Suura-san asked the person in charge to delay it for a later date because she was caring about our circumstances.

And the last, Zari.

Different from those two, though he had signs of physical fatigue, but he had mental shock or fatigue.

After hearing that we would be taken later for hearing, he left in a nonchalant way.

Though based on the result that they were saved, the subordinates of Suura-san too had mental damage inflicted on them.

And, due to the fact he had covert ability which couldn't be sensed by Suura-san and the fact he said that he could fight 2 exceed hoppers, makes me feel like he really isn't some normal person.

Though I didn't confirm his face, but from the smell, I can affirm that it was Zari hiding there, on that morning.....

He didn't seemed to have intentions to peek or be violent so I left him, but thinking more, this in itself is more mysterious. Just why was he sneakily roaming around?

It bothered me, but there was no answer coming out, so I decided to forget for the time being.



So, currently, Elk and I were resting in the room of inn.

I am giving the food to Alva, while sitting on the bed with the『Necromicon』in my one hand.

[AK: reminds me of the Necronomicon or is it the same book]

[ET: What is Necronomicon?]

I am reading it, while making sure, that the grilled meat of the『exceed hopper subspecies』which Alva was eating while perching on my shoulder, doesn't fall on the book page.

Alva was eating the meat of the dark green grasshopper with an happy expression.

Moreover, he was liking the rare-grilled parts more than the not-grilled ones. Just like a gourmet. It makes an unsatisfying expression while eating raw parts.

So, when it urged for seconds, I grilled it with fire magic and gave the meat.

.....I just gave a part, though.....

Then, Elk, who was maintaining the weapons while sitting near the table in the center of the room.....

「Hey, it has gotten dark, isn't the light too less for reading a book?」

「? Is that so? I have no problem though」

「Currently you don't have, but if you keep on reading books with less light your eyesight will get worse」

Well, certainly, it had become hard to read, but that is only for normal people.

Furthermore, currently Elk was repairing the weapons.....more precisely, she was in process of sharpening the aforementioned『dagger』.

Since it was an blade, so caution is needed, in that case, good light source for looking at it would also be needed. It would be bad if her hand slipped and she got hurt.

Incidentally, the whetstone used to sharpening that『dagger』to is a special one, but we got it somehow after consulting Noel-neesan.

It was quite pricy, but not something we couldn't afford.

So, ever since then, on every opportunity she found, Elk started to sharpen her『dagger』, maybe because of sharpening effects, the original lustre of crystal blade was returning bit by bit.

I don't want that hard-working Elk to get hurt, so I took out the candle (a box with a dozen of them) I had bought before.

Then, I placed them in the candlestand used for holding candles.

This is a candle made from magic for『illumination』purposes, so it was brighter than normal candles. But, it had a brightness like that of a naked light bulb, so I used three of them.

Then, the moment I was about to light up the candles, Alva, who was perched on my shoulder, flapped its wing and started to fly.

Like that it neared the candlestand, and hovered in air without making flapping sounds.

Elk and I were watching it thinking what it is going to do, then it moved the front of claws near the part used for lightening up the candle.

There, I finally understood what Alva was going to do.....the next moment,

SFX: Poof

A miniscule amount of flame came out from the front of claws, and light up the candle.

「Whoa, this is great, so you really can use it now, you're really great~, Alva」

「.....?!? !!?」

I looked at Elk only to find her completely stiff while making an expression as if she saw something really impossible with the dagger in her hands.

Oi, it's dangerous to blank out with a blade in hand, don't you know?

.....Ah, I see. I never told Elk about Alva.

Apparently, Alva somehow learned the way to use fire magic by seeing me make fire with magic.

For me, I just fill fire magic in my hands and make it damn hot, so I can fire up anything with just nearing my hand to the object,

But before was with a snap.

In that way, I could fill magic in my finger, then with a finger snap, make sparks of high temperature to ignite the candles or bonfires.

It's easy to imagine and looks cool, so based on my mood, I could alternate between the two choices.

And, I could maintain the heat in my fingers for a long time.

The grilled meat which I gave to Alva before was grilled in this way.

Seeing that cycle, apparently, Alva learned it on its own.

Though there was no finger-snaps, but it released somewhat powerful flames, currently, it was even able to grill the somewhat heated meat given by me.

At first, it failed in controlling the spark power, so the meat was charred.

.....Even though I explained, but for some reason Elk didn't agree to it.

「.....No, that just cannot happen. Normally, it just is impossible」

「Even if you say that.....well, doesn't it mean that Alva has really good brain, right? It looks like it can understand our words」

「That is the strangest thing..... The demons with that much intelligence only appear after crossing a certain high-leveled line.....in the first place, learning magic, though easy one, by just watching, that feat is even impossible for humans. Even more, not even two complete days have passed since its birth, right?」

.....Well, yeah, she's right.

If magic could be copied by just watching a few times then.....people aiming to be apprentice of renowned mages would be extinct.....

It hasn't been much time since Alva was born.....it hatched out from egg in front of my eyes.

Thinking carefully, why can it understand everything in a conversation and our words, though it shouldn't have had connections with language?

Isn't it like asking a japanese who doesn't know other languages, to listen to a professional russian talk and reply in perfect russian, right?

And, I don't even know what sort of demon Alva is.....Suura-san too, Zari too, didn't seem like they about it.

It also had the unique nature of liking magical substances. Looks like I would have to look into it.

「Hmm.....just what are you」

Piiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii?

I tilted my head.

Alva too tilted its head by imitating (?) me.It's more and more owl-like.

「.....You guys are quite intimate」

Thanks for that.

Piiiiiiiiiii!



「I thought about this randomly」

Why are you even thinking, I would not ask it.

「I thought it during the training, that you can use various things, right? Darkness magic aside, like pheromone.....even demons get pale due to that, right?」

「No, you don't have to say that much.....it has different varieties and different activation sequences」

「Eh? Really? Aren't you making it with magic?」

「Well right.....」

Strictly speaking, it is about the process at start.....something like a『trigger』. Now that I think, I never talked about it.

I too am, more or less, related to『succubus race』.

Within their inherent ability, something called as『charm』exists.

The nature succubus' have was『energy intake』. This power assisted for that nature.

It was the power to seduce a man for doing as they want.....a power like hypnotism.

However, this power was not completely dependent on magic.

My power is a power closely related to the the『sex pheromones』that a living being emits.....for seducing the other gender person.

My『Magic Pheromone』are not pure genuine『Pheromone』(do they even exist in humans), but it is with similar power made from from using『Charm』, it is something like quasi-ish magic. Being a part succubus, I too『have』the power.

Though, I cannot use it so easily at all times. After all this and that, it is still a power requiring『Magic Control』.

But because it was a power that would make me regret not using, I did something and manythings with the secretion substance, by using『Elemental Blood』at full power, and in the end I became able to use it too.

But, in reality, it isn't『Pheromone』, but a『Pheromone-ish Magic』like power.

At first『Magic Pheromone Charm』was created, then I got the hang of it, created『Intimidation』『Warning』『Gather』『Provocation』et cetera, and practiced them.

As for the test subject, I used the bandits which I captured during the

bandit extermination when I went with mom. I had even finished the fine adjustments at that time, so it was completed with a high level of perfection.

When I told Elk about it, she admired me, and as though she remembered something,

「So you can actually create substance like that inside the body? Though it comes with magic added」

「Yeah. My body enhancement magic, I cannot tell in details, but it directly affects the vitals and other stuff, so fine control like that is possible for me」

「In that case.....can you make poison inside the body?」

「Poison?」

Said that.

Hearing Elk's, casual questions incited by curiosity.....triggered something inside my mind.

Elk's question was『If you can make god knows what substances called pheromones, then you can make easy thing like poison too, right?』.

We could use it against demons as insecticides or rodenticides.

No, the question in itself had no problems or strange things.

Certainly, I.....If I use the body function control of『Elemental Blood』, then I can make toxic substance using the matter inside my body..... perhaps, maybe.

My body, with magic particles existing in the cellular levels, could control the functions of body to the level that other people can never reach. The toxic substances present in the body, which are constantly removed, if collected together and used in an attack.....

And, I could also add much more stuff to improve it. If I use the waste materials properly, I could produce sulfur easily.....supplementing it with magic would make it more reliable.

But,

All that is fine.....still, something is getting triggered in my head.

「.....Poison.....eh?」

「? So is it impossible?」

「No, it's not it's impossible.....but.....」

「But?」

「That idea.....I've got a feeling that I too have thought about it before.....?」

What is it, this seems like a dejavu.

Creating poison from matter inside the body, this idea, seems like I have thought about it before.

I, by nature, am a person who tries to experiment whatever I think is interesting or is interesting for other people. Poison hand or poison mist, fights like these which include poison seem just too much interesting, and it can be put to use with utmost results. This truly enters the category of『Interesting』.

In fact, this is something I would've thought about.....so why, in all 10 years of training, had I never thought about this?

No, in the first place, did I really.....『Not think about this』?

In real, I could've have『Thought』about it, but have forgot about that time?

I don't know exactly, but that sort of feelings, keeps on rolling in my head after hearing『poison』from Elk. Just why is it so.....?

Just what the heck is this gloomy feeling? I don't think I just『forgot』it nice and easy.....?

「Hey, Minato what happened? Why are you staring blankly.....if you cannot do it then it's alright, I just wanted to hear due to curiosity」

「Eh? Ah, no, it's not like that.....sorry, I was thinking something.」

「Hmm, I see」

「As for poison.....I will try to research on it. I think it would become a magic for various practical uses」

「I see. But don't try the impossible. If you yourself could not control it, it would be a disaster. It would become a problem, right?」

「You're right. Getting seriously ill by my own poison is something I cannot laugh at easily」

「That and.....I too would be troubled」

Ah well, if her comrade became a poison-man, who spreads the poison using poison attacks, it would be troublesome. Let's do the research discreetly.

When I thought that,

Elk muttered『No, that is sure but also.....』, blushed.....and looked at me with her fascinating reproachful gaze.

「.....After all isn't it like that.....like even if you remain fine but your body spreads poison to anyone it touches then.....」

And, for some reason she stood up while blushing, crossed the room, sat and bed.....and tapped the newly spread bedsheet.

「Look, that.....wouldn't it be troublesome? For you and me too. Mainly.....in night, here」

「Ah, err, umm.....」

Indeed.....if it came to that, then well.....it would be trouble and inconvenience would occur when communicating, no, it would become impossible.

I too would be pained both on the desire aspect and mental aspect.....hm? Would Elk be pained?

「No, idiot, don't misunderstand! I mean.....if you became too much worked up then it would be leave me a bad conscience, I really didn't mean it that indecent way.....it was only as a comrade, you see!？」

.....Huh, this is gonna be bad, right?

This story progress.....reminded me about the day of『Naga』.

At that time too, Elk blushed, got irritated and following it.....

「I.....It isn't like I got worried for your health, neither did I worry that our distance would increase, I seriously didn't think (collapse) about..... why did you fall down before I finished speaking!?!」

I-It came after 2 long weeks.....the sure-kill attack combo (unknowingly) of Elk.....!

「E-Elk.....try learning.....」

「No, why don't you try to become used to this!? We both, on top of bed.....have did many indecent things.....so why are you falling down with this.....」

Surely, you are right.

However, maybe my brain has been made this way for a girl to my liking that this attack on brain, even with our distance closed within the two weeks, didn't made much difference from that time. Maybe I could never get used to this thing.

This has more stronger effect than the attack of big-serpent, or wind magic of a giant grasshopper, or even the poison of bandits. Seriously.

If these tsundere phrases had an offensive ability, I would be have been killed five or six times.

I'm happy, It makes my heart go harsh, It is cute.....with those words my mind filled, but it looks like I wouldn't be fainting this time.....

「.....! Geez.....this why this great idiot makes me worried about him.....
ah, no, it was lie! Complete lie! I wasn't really worried ab.....Huh!?!」

「.....Spurt」(TN: *nose blood spurt*, not your normal nosebleed)

Ah, I see, so I'm going down this time too.

While looking at Elk with a『Oh no!』written on her easy to read face, and Alva, on the opposite side, with eyes saying『What the hell is wrong with this couple』(?), I wasn't able to hold my consciousness. Looks like this became a pattern.

Is the resistance to night work different from.....resistance to『Moe』 and『Type』? I don't feel like I could get used to this.

Chapter 35 – The name is『Nevalides』

「I, in the end, came here♪」

Wow!! x2

.....Explanation about what just occurred is something like this.

The day after we returned from the『Crimson Forest』,

After eating the breakfast, *knock-knock*, my door was knocked. What is it, thinking that, Elk opened the door.....

.....There stood, Irene-san, with a face full of smiles. Explanation over.



A sudden visit by Guild Master.

As for the reason, why she came to the inn for a single adventurer was,

「Yeah, in truth, I got a really tasty snack yesterday, so I will share it with you」

[ET: So first.....his mom now this.....this one is even more screwed up]

.....You're a guild master, right?

With this timing, I had thought that some big problem came up or she was going to inquire us, but.....my predictions were kicked right out of the bucket.

I asked if it was fine to not report about this matter to her, the guild master,

「Report? I don't need. Isa-chan has told me the outline, and in truth I don't even need to hear it, but still get what might have happened. It was this『Minato-kun, getting attacked by demons, went on a rampage』, right ?」

Irene-san said that. She just covered the main point in less than damn 30 words.Not like she's wrong.

Well, I don't know who that『Isa-chan』might be, but let it like that, just why the hell have you come here nonchalantly for playing?

If a guildmaster, even as a joke, came to an inn for a single adventurer.....wouldn't that make a pain-in-the-ass trouble later?

「It's fine, It's fine. I came here while using the magic for recognition obstruction, so one would realise it's me. I have left the work to Barracks, so I'm fine even by ditching the job, at least till the end of morning」

Another problem is sprouting.

Well, if Irene-san is saying that, I couldn't help but agree to her. Even if I say anymore, it won't make much of difference.

And, thank you for the hard work, assistant Barracks-san.

When she finished speaking, she took out a snack seeming like castella from the different pocket of same pouch.

The size of pouch, and the snack is obviously different.....maybe it too is an storage-type magic item, just like my backpack.

After that, while eating that castella-like snack, she heard the story about the current case with an happy expression.

Irene-san said before that『report』wasn't needed, but the talk for chatting was something else, so she lend an ear for killing the time.

While telling her, during the parts that weren't in report or the parts she was personally interested in, she tried to delve deeper in secret.

Like, when the landslide occurred while we were in the small hut (at this point we hadn't met Suura-san and others), or like when I used darkness magic, or even when I used my original magic『Magic Pheromone』.

As for the thing about the hut, I didn't think there was a need to report, so it was fine.

I explained it to Irene-san briefly, then she grinned with satisfaction.

「So that is the case. So you had been fighting with dog, rabbit, lizard, cockroach and even grasshopper」

「Originally it was only supposed to end with dog. But our bad luck」

「Don't say it like that. Only because you guys took a detour, Suura-chan and others were saved」

Well, that certainly is right, but. When I think about getting in that situation without Elk or me.....I felt slight cold.

I, of course, Elk too, displayed lot of efforts in repelling the demons attacking the carriages. At least, more than those delinquent pair.

Those two lacked in basics. So they got injured a lot, and were taken to curing team very quickly.

In that aspect Elk, using basic hit-and-run tactics, fought against demons, her evasion was good from before, but recently, by training with me, those movements have got slightly polished.

So in terms of overall work, she falls behind me, Zari and Suura-san, but still she showed lot of efforts in defending.

Thinking that, it felt like it was for the good. As a hindsight-based opinion, it was good that Suura-san and others didn't die.

「But.....you too were lucky, Minato-kun」

「Eh?」

Irene said that thing suddenly. Luck? Without knowing what she meant, I stared blankly.

In the talk right now, was there any part showing that I got lucky?

When I asked,

「Minato-kun, do you remember about the『List』, I gave you before?」

「? Hmm, that goal list which I don't want to remember?」

「Yes. Wasn't it inside there? The subspecies of『Exceed Hopper』」

Ah, yeah, certainly it was there. I think it was the topmost in the subjugation goal list. But, what about it?

「I forgot to tell you, but the demons in that list, become stronger as you go down, so the first demon you met in was the weakest, that's why you were lucky」

「.....Oh, so that is the case」

I can't say anything to Elk with an expression saying『For real!?!』.

It was the weakest, eh. In the list?

Well I did thought it was too weak for being the level of monster which would make me recognised by mom.

「And, though it doesn't happen here but.....in far countryside, a rare group of around 100 subspecies appears after many years. Sometimes, a request for punitive force reinforcements are made in guild, so how about going there at that time?」

「.....Well, after Elk becomes more stronger than right now」

「I just can't, hell no!!」

A shout filled with grief and despair. I'm joking, joking. I too won't go to a place like that on my own will and it's not like we would find a group like that wherever we go.....let's stop talking or I get a small feeling it would turn into a bad flag.

Well around here, a group that big isn't present, so I can be somewhat relieved.

And, according to Irene-san, the quest for investigation of『Crimson Forest』has been put out by Guild, and many adventurers with information gathering as objective, have went inside the forest.

Naturally, they had written a warning saying『It more dangerous than ever before』, but almost none of the adventurers dropped out because of it. Let's just pray for their well being.

In this way, we might be called by the guards' side for inquiry, but the Guild, wouldn't delve in deeper about this case. They have decided to close up this case as『An unexpected accident. Now resolved』.

「Though, the rumours about『adventurer in black』is spreading, so Minato-kun, be ready for some hard life」

「Ah, I see now.....」

.....The case hasn't been resolved for me. Well, when we returned to city in carriage, I was in the front carriage, though as escort, so it was only natural to stand out.

「And, with this case, your rank will have to be raised up again, so, for updation of your guild card, do come to Guild, okay?」

「Yes.....」

Well, I had thought it would be like that for levels, but.....ah, so depressing.

I recalled about the situation during the case with『Naga』.

Onlookers filled with curiosity, check by fellow adventurers, invitation to

other adventurer parties.....just because rumours were spread, I had to face all these things before.

Moreover, this is the second round. I do have my criminal record (?) of before, after this one too, I can already feel it being a pain-in-the-ass situation.

I heaved a sigh while thinking that, Elk looked at my attitude with a fed-up expression, suddenly, as if she remembered something Irene-san started speaking.

「By the way Minato-kun, I was bothered about this from before?」

「Come again?」

「It came out in the story before, but, it's the first time you are keeping a pet, right?」

「Ah, yes. I've made it wait in the other room for now」

Yeah, it was about Alva.

Look right now, a guest is here, snacks.....edible stuff is also here, so I gave Alva it's food (grasshopper meat) to make him stay obediently in the other room.

In the talk before, I sure did talk about Alva. I think it is a demon, but because I didn't knew its species, I introduced him as a blackish owl-like

bird.

Then, Irene-san said she wanted to see it, so I called Alva from the other room. I just called out its name, it came flying and perched on my shoulder. Really intelligent.

Then, Irene-san, bend forward, looked at Alva, then for an instant, though it might be my imagination, Irene-san showed a serious expression completely different from her normal nonchalant expression.What happened?

「You said it ate things with magical power willingly, so I did thought about it, but.....」

「Err.....Irene-san?」

「Minato-kun, this bird.....ah, Alva-kun I mean. Do you know what sort of demon Alva-kun is?」

「? Nope not at all. Elk too said that she didn't knew it」

I sent a fleeting glance to Elk and affirmation came back.

Seeing us, Irene-san said『As expected』.

Does Irene-san know what sort of race Alva is from?

No, she would naturally know. After all, her career is different from ours, she's the great legendary-class adventurer. It isn't strange that she would know about a demon with just a glance.

It is a good chance, how about I ask what race is it from and how to raise it? When I was thinking ridiculous stuff like this,

Irene-san made an expression as if she found it REALLY interesting. Eh, What?

「.....In truth, the main reason I came here was because in the report of Isa-chan there was something about an blackish owl loving to eat food with magical power」

「Hwat?」

「And I come here to see this.....no, things like this can occur」

「.....Umm.....?」

「Hm? Ah, sorry sorry, I was just startled. I had never thought Minato-kun you would keep a guy this tremendous, though by coincidence, as your pet」

Eh, what do you mean by that? What is with that suggestive sentence which seriously is ticking me off. What? Is my Alva that bad? To the extent that even Irene-san said『tremendous』about it?

I looked to my side, and Elk too, while looking at Alva, was spilling out somewhat sweat.

.....What to do, I wanted to ask about it, but now I have gotten scared to even hear.

No no, wait wait. Jumping to conclusions is not good. Calm down. It can be『tremendous』based on normal public opinion, maybe.

The demon I fought this time『Exceed Hopper』too is said to be『tremendous』based on normal public evaluation.....it would be good to that extent, right?no, surely there is no doubt it is just too much strange.

Elk's reproachful gaze has been coming to me – no, how the hell am I wrong this time? – and other things too, so I want to first calm down..... while thinking that, I waited for an answer from Irene-san, holding my breath.

In the end, this Alva, perched on my shoulder, scratching its feather with beak, is what kind of demon and of what level..... Please, be be upright with explanation.....

「Yes, well then, it's a good chance so I shall enlighten you. That Alva-kun, in truth is.....」

「-In truth is?」

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

「.....」

You're hesitating way too fucking long! That just fucking too long of an hesitation! You're definitely having fun, right!?

Like that, keeping us in suspense for about more than 20 seconds..... Irene-san finally opened her mouth.

「Race name『Nevalides』. Rank『Unmeasurable』. It is that one hell of a monster demon. Though it's only a baby bird right now.」

Written as『humans』and 『dreams』 is a word pronounced as..... 『fragile』. (TN: This is a pun. Okay, so pun intended)

☆☆☆

『Nevalides』

Habitat: Unknown.

Detailed Ecology: Unknown.

Rank: Unmeasurable.

It is a Devil bird, said to come from the pits of hell, while covered in feather of black and grey. Its appearance is of a slightly bigger black owl an adult bird is, around the size of a medium~large sized bird of prey. Its appearance is not much of a thing, but it's true state is a lot of thing, as it contains dreadful combat ability, it is a legendary-class demon.

It doesn't has much physical strength (according to normal demon evaluation basis), but inside its body is enormous amount of magical power, and it could use a great variety of magic easily with more power. That power could turn a really big forest into scorched earth, and a single bird could subjugate a whole group of more than thousand demons easily.

It has abnormally high intelligence and could understand human language. Furthermore, it could learn a simple magic just by seeing it sometimes, for an easy magic seeing it once is enough, it could even learn the magic just by hearing about it, all in all, it has too much intelligence that it far surpasses human being in imitation aspects.

Due to the high magical power by birth, it loves to eat the meat of demons with magic. Especially, during the time as baby bird, the foundations to growth of magical power aspects are made. Thanks to that, it requires fine quality of food with lots of magical power inserted, in short, it has empty stomach most of times.

Its growth is too fast, after hours from birth it can fly, after one day it can fly without making any sound. By two or three days, it could already use normal magic of fire and other attributes, though being in growth stage.

.....All this was the grateful explanation by Irene-san about the identity of Alva.

「Though, this race was said to be extinct about a thousand years ago.....but for it to still live in this era, is truly shocking even for me」

Hearing more, apparently, Irene-san too had only read about it in documents during her times as adventurer, so seeing it in real is a first for her too. In that document a picture similar to its sketch was drawn, so she understood by looking.

Why a demon like this, a monster demon which could laugh and kill all those grasshopper group easily, was present in that Ritoras Mountains.

「Maybe, the egg transformed in a fossil, and remained in a dormant state?」

「Dormant state?」

「Yes. Sometimes there are demons like those present. They go in a dormant state with various methods, upon the loss of food, deterioration in habitat, and after entering dormant state.....they sleep for many years, tens of years, hundreds of years.....at most thousands of years」

「So Alva.....Nevalides are like that too」

「Yes. That egg, came out of the place of a landslide, right? Maybe the dormant egg started working once again with the landslide as trigger, and just before hatching, you guys passed by and picked it up. During dormant state, there are demons, who have strong shells or egg shells」

「So a thing like that exists.....」

The thing called demons, are so profound.

A demon like that exists, it's egg rested at that place, and I picked it up.....too absurd of a coincidence.

Then, Elk who had been hearing till now,

「But, why was a legendary-class monster present at a place like that? Ritoras Mountains is said to be a mountain for beginners, the levels of demons appearing there is low.....naturally, the magical power quantity they have is also low.....」

Said all that. Well she is right.

If it is that great demon, then the parent bird would try to feed it the fine quality meat of demon with high magical power quantity.....

「Yeah, I also think that is strange, but there are certain reason I can

think of? Like for making the baby bird independent as soon as possible and let it start hunting on its own」

I see. Indeed that place is good for even the beginner human adventurers, so for a demon like this, it would become a good training place.

If it becomes insufficient, then it has to become self-independent, go to some other place, and search for a better food.....

「Either that or, before that place became for low rank demons, it lived there, and in that era high ranked demons might have lived there. Like, perfect for their training」

「So Alva's egg was given birth around that time?」

「Possibility about that sure exists. But in that case, it would be long before, this country was even made.....around many thousands of years before」

So there is a possibility it slept for all that time.

There were other possibilities, but without any proof for the correct one, this talk ended with this.

Then, Irene-san asked me that if I would keep it even after knowing..... all that stuff.

Well, a normal person, would lose all the intention to keep a pet which is said to be tremendous. Based on danger aspects.

In that case, either selling or presenting it in Guild are two choices.

According to Irene-san, rare demons like those are bought with high price as a research material.

But I have no intention to do that.

After all, I had decided to keep it, with having considered the possibility that it might be a demon. I promised to look after it, took it along with me, and even fed it.

And to throw it away or sell it to Guild, well two words: Fuck it!

No well, other people might blame me for acting that way with a dangerous demon, but I just don't give a shit about it.

I have all the more intention to look after it till the very end. And from what I have heard, the time it would grow up and not need me to look after too is coming near soon.

Hearing that, Elk sighed and Irene-san smiled in a strange way.

Apparently, she had guessed my answer, so she didn't say anything else, though being on the guild side, and easily accepted my answer. Maybe it was because she is broad-minded or due to her personality of

being wild and nonchalant.

Elk, didn't oppose it, though it's not like she isn't feeling uneasiness.

It has high intelligence, can understand human language, so it won't become much of a danger if I kept telling it.

However, she also said to properly discipline it.

After saying that, the work of Irene-san was finished. She suddenly stood up and started to leave.

And she wouldn't need us to send her off.....just as I thought that,

「Ah, and Minato-kun」

「Yes?」

「I don't anybody does it, but you don't need to be afraid just because your pet is outside the norm, if you raise it while giving lots of love, then it might stick with you only」

Doesn't that implicitly mean『Be careful there are those who don't stick』?

「It's fine. I know one of my friends who has a demon, around the same danger levels as this guy, as her pet (smirk)」

「.....Umm, please don't tell me that person.....」

For this person to say words like this, at this timing, in this mood only means.....

「yeah, your mom」

「Yeah, damn it. really!?!」

「Didn't she had? A bird with golden feathers, around this big」

Saying that, Irene-san stretched her hands in left and right side.

.....A bird which reaches 2 m upon opening wings.....Stork, eh?

On mom's orders, it radiated flames from the wings, released beams from its mouth. When I was weak, and went in forest, in substitute for mom, it escorted me, against demons I couldn't fight against, it kicked their asses.

I had thought it wasn't any normal demon, but.....

「It is called as『Phoenix』, and is a sacred bird, completely opposite of『Nevalides』. It's name was.....I think it was Stork, maybe?」

In the traditional folklores of some places, Phoenix are called as『god of

light』and Nevalides as『evil god of darkness』, certainly they fit the phrase 'light and shadow'. Of course rank is unmeasurable. On theory is, that upon dying it could revive from even the smallest fire, it is a type of immortal bird.

This information is the same as of『Immortal bird』the『Phoenix』in my previous world's fantasy genre stuff. (TN: Immortal bird means phoenix, but the reason I didn't write it was because Phoenix has many ways of being written in Japanese and they all different meanings, which english words cannot teach)

Irene-san, after saying information that only increased my mental fatigue, left with a satisfied expression.

Still what sort of karma is this. Mom and stork, a demon same as that would come to me, almost like the same side of the coin idiom.....

Well, I did felt dreadful coincidences, but it's all good. Alva is Alva.

For the time being, I thought to be a good friend to this lovely guy facing its round and cute eyes towards me.

Chapter 36 – A moment at the Tavern

On the night of the day when a typhoon name Irene-san came.

We were, neither in room nor in the dining hall of inn, rather we had come to a big restaurant on the main street.

This restaurant.....or rather, it is a shop more like a tavern. It was at a nearby place, only some minutes walk from inn.

Upon entering the tavern, for a moment, the stares of people gathered at me.

Half of those gazes returned to eating their food and friendly chat as if nothing happened, on the other hand, the rest seemed like they recognised me as『person from rumors』.

Some indirectly, while some directly, sent their stares at me.

Well, my clothes are black as usual, so this is only obvious.

My clothes do stood out, so I thought of buy new clothes, but my hair and eyes, both are black. So if I am going to be found out either way, there was no need to change the clothes.

That's why, I had thought some would come talking to me the moment I entered the tavern, but though I felt the stares, nobody came upfront.

Is there some unspoken rule of not getting involved too much, or, is there some dangerous rumor about me flowing.....

We walked somewhat further and found the person we was looking for.

「What, I thought that I would be able to see different clothes here. Are those your casual clothes too?」

「Ah, yes. It is one good set of clothes after all」

「It's not the same for me, but there is no reason to change deliberately, right? You're the same too」

「Pu, certainly」

The moment we met the person who invited us, Suura-san, we started that conversation. We sat on the chairs which Suura-san had secured.

Incidentally, today Alva is staying at home. Because, this place is a restaurant.

Then, while chatting I held the menu in hands, and ran my eyes over it. What to ta~ke?

Eh, are you thinking that why I came out of my room when I didn't want it become an uproar?

That is true, but.....Irene-san said these words to us.

『It seems like you are trying to be holed up in your room till the time uproar passes by, but I think it has already gotten too late, how about giving up♪』

I was told that flat out, clearly, and so deeply, that I wanted to cry.

However, thinking upon it, it really was a just reasoning.

In the first place, adventurers' occupation is where equation of『Strong = Capable = Famous』works in the truest sense.

It is pretty obvious. If one is strong and superior, then others can leave being escorts or investigator to them with a peace of mind. The sense of security during putting up quests is different from this.

And, more often people are wanting to hear the information about people like them, except the one part of people, others proactively help in information sharing, with gossips and whatnot.

Becoming superior among adventurers means, one would get more trust from Guild and the client, many convenient things would increase, at the same time, the fame would also increase proportionally, and the person's name would be spread far.

Therefore upon becoming famous, one would obviously gather people's gaze, and various sorts of rumors would be made up, furthermore other adventurers would send invitations too.

So to say, this is like the rite of passage an adventurer passes through while becoming famous. Anyone famous, more or less, is experienced.

And since being an『adventurer』, other adventurers would have to approve of it to some extent.

Thinking like that, although it might be awkward, but the strange ones would be us, avoiding all the uproar.

No well, I vaguely knew about it, but in my case, it felt like the way of thinking from the previous life was pulling the strings..... . Originally I, in both previous life and right now too, didn't want to create uproars centred around me.

If I had tread on the steps one by one, slowly becoming famous then it might have been different, but here I have subjugated a rank A monster and gained war results unworthy of an rookie.

Just like I had said before many times, the disadvantages of becoming famous in one shot are more than advantages, so I cannot deny becoming cautious and coward.

But, from now on, that too won't work. For better or worse, I would have to experience the feeling of becoming『famous』. Irene-san told me all this, with just one sentence.

Well, like that, I stopped secluding in the room, and unleashed myself in the night market.....this way of speaking seems quite strange, I think.

Then, at the right time Suura-san invited us for eating, so we informed Tanya-chan that we would be eating outside, and like that we had come to this public tavern.



The reason Suura-san invited us was for thanking us.

This store has, quality OK, quantity OK, price OK.....all in all, it is an great store with 3 best things. It neither has some strange high-class feel to it, and seats are plenty. And because the turnover rate is also good, that they don't make customers wait for much time. It is a great store for adventurers. It seems.

And, because of that, lots of sorts of costumes come here, from gentleman-type to violent-type, but because of an unspoken agreement, they all are treated equally.

Well, normal picking up on women do happen here (vice-versa too), but that is within tolerable limits as it just a part of meeting with someone.

In fact, it might be because of this rule, that though they realized me (adventurer in black) and sent stares, but no one has come up.

I need to really thank Suura-san for introducing such a great store to me. Though I had come here with determination, but if other adventurers had come up to me, then it would have become problematic for me.

And personally it is great that food comes fast. Since the previous life, I had hated waiting at restaurants like this, so I always prefer the 3 points I stated earlier.

But still, they are too fast. Almost as fast as a person in Gyudon-shop.

There are various lato barely fine cuisines, are they using magic? For making these.It's not completely impossible. Though they wouldn't have made the cuisine itself with magic, but they might have magic to cook the food fast, it's just that I had not yet seen it.

While eating, we had a harmless and inoffensive talk with Suura-san. Like we had relied on each other during time of fight inside the forest, or if our lives were going well.

I should obviously, Suura-san asked me curiously about my strength that『Where did you train?』, but telling her the truth, like about my mom would be a pain-in-the-ass, and there is no guarantee that she would believe it.

So I made do with telling that I grew in an hostile environment.

Though Suura-san wasn't convinced completely with it, but she didn't persistently asked about it.

「Still.....being watched time-by-time is not a good feeling」

「It is only natural that it would become like this every time your name spreads. Though I'm not an adventurer, but I too have experienced it. You

have to get used to it」

said Suura-san. She was pretty strong in fights before, so maybe the army to has the same system as for adventurers.

「Not that, but being glanced at this many times, kind of kills my appetite」

「Don't lie idiot. You say that with a straight face while ordering seconds of that big meat set.」

Elk retorted with reproachful gaze.

Yeah, well I am currently holding the menu again for re-order the roast-beef-like cuisine because it was just too tasty.

But you see, the impression for taste compensates for the declining appetite and is balancing it.....I won't say this because it seems like she would retort again.

「Well don't say like that. Though that line had some points to point out, but if he likes it then it's all fine. Eat without caring for cost」

「No, like I said before, we can split the cost.....」

「Then I also said before that it won't help me thanking you. What, though I look like this, I had lots of surplus in my purse because of my post. And, looking a boy eating lots of food, feels good」

While inclining a very-powerful alcohol mug on her shoulder, Suura-san said as such along with a smile.

She also gave me alcohol to drink, but, in truth, I don't like drinking.

It's not like I cannot drink it, but I don't even think it is tasty. The more alcoholic it becomes the more I hate it.

The feeling of the throat becoming hot after drinking.....the drinkers say it is good, but I just cannot bear it. That's why, things like whiskey have already gone from『not good』to『hate』levels.

In addition, I don't like bitter taste and carbonated drinks too, so beer too is no-go for me.

So, I would rather like juice of the same flavor as cocktail. Definitely. The thing I'm drinking right now is also oolong tea.....-like tea. I forgot the name already.

Incidentally my sense of taste is the same from my previous life, at first I had thought what if I can now drink alcohol, but I was wrong. I was made to drink it by mom, and from that I found out about it.

Eh? My age at death in previous world? I was an high-schooler? No well, that.....aren't there relatives that get in high spirits upon getting drunk? To the extent of recommending a minor to drink. Due to that, on the spur of moment.....yeah, I'm regretting it.

Well anyway.

People like this are not rare in this world, but among the army and adventurers they sure are, even Suura-san said she saw it after a while. Well, there might be people who might drink it forcibly for matching up their friends.

But, I know from my previous world's knowledge that『drinking oneself dead drunk』is getting near『true death』, so I think to refrain from drinking at all.

With this and that, I called the waitress, and ordered some more cuisines.

Once again with terrifying speed, stir-fried meat vegetables, potage soup, minced cutlet and risotto was brought. Their names are different, but they seem all too similar to the things in my memories.

「Well, I did say to order without restraint, but.....can you eat it all?」

「Ah, no problem. Though looking like this, I'm quite a glutton. Well, I don't have this much appetite always, but because it is tasty.....that perhaps my stomach got elated」

Saying that, I stuff my mouth with risotto and minced cutlets. Yeah, freaking tasty.

「Even so, you do eat a lot at the time of eating. Do you have any preferences?」

「Except alcohol I can eat and drink anything. Well I like meat more than fish」

「I see, you sure are admirable. You even know courtesy, not many young'uns have that recently」

Is, that so? I think I'm being pretty normal. Well there are more strong-willed violent bunch of people, so people with my attitude might be rare among the adventurers and army affiliated people. Let's go with this thinking.

「And you have lots of experience in military arts at that age. In near future, the surroundings will sure have a great uproar, don't you think so?」

「Hahaha, well we're adventurers after all. Just like Suura-san said before, looks like I will have to get used to it」

「Hm? Yeah, that is true.....」

Then, Suura-san raised the corners of mouth.

「Well, you have good manners, are strong, and are honest. Simply put an excellent man. And an excellent man will either be admired by other men or become their enemy because for women.....you're a suitable prey」

She grinned.

「.....Come again?」

Err, that means?

Ah, well maybe things like that exist?

「Strong adventurers are『attacked』for that reason, it happens a lot. There are many sorts out there.....try not to get involved with them」

「Ahaha.....well, yes, thank you for the warning」

I had been told many times about this topic.....by mom.

Among adventurers ruffian-like lively people are not only men. Women too are the same. There are elegant, nice and tidy women and also wild lively women too.

Among people like them, they tempt the man they like and goes onto work like that.

There basis for『prey』differ for every person, but according to Suura-san and Mom too, the more excellent the man the better chances of becoming a prey to them.

In other words, I need to be careful because I'm too strong compared to

normal standards. For people who even attack people of Rank D and C, I sure will look like a great prey, after all I'm young and very strong.

I see. During the time with mom, I had thought this talk as『rubbish』due to『not having any girlfriend for my whole life』in my previous life, but.....

After getting out like this, I have seen the people, though they are of different kinds, and am getting used to this reality. It's strange.

Any normal man would be ecstatic, but.....no, I too am happy upon getting loved by women, but changing the perspectives lets me recognize it as a starting point of a pain-in-the-ass development.

Seriously, let it be men or women, I still don't want to get in anymore troubles. Like Seriously.

「*sigh*well, I have recently left the countryside, or rather my home, so I don't have many people with that sort of relationship, or rather I don't have much girl acquaintances near me」

This is the truth. I have recently left the western-style house called 'my home', and the woodlands called 'countryside', so I don't have much acquaintances.

So my acquaintances in this world, except Mom and Noel-neesan because they are blood-related relatives, would be

Elk who is my partner both in public and private,

And Riin-san, who for some reason, always is the receptionist when I go to Guild and the last one would be the guild master and mom's old friend, Irene-san.

And, ah also Zari who fought with us in that forest. As for those two delinquents, I don't think of them as my acquaintances.

Other than all them would be, Tanaya-chan from inn, or Suura-san.

Huh, unexpectedly the sex ratio is 1: 5..... Well, as the overall numbers they are not much, but the girls are more.....

Maybe she too reached the same conclusion, Elk sent a scornful gaze to me. No. This is different, this was not based on my act, but my introvert nature did some plusses and minuses and it became like this, I seriously had no ill inte.....

Seeing my reaction, Suura-san broadly grinned.....tch, for some reason that smile is getting on my nerves.....

「Well, I don't know the circumstances, but in near future it will get rowdy. The person in question seems all-too-optimistic so.....try to keep the reins in control」

「.....Why are you saying that to me?」(Elk)

「Who knows. But, I don't think that you should think about it as other's

problem, but rather pay more attention, it would help」

「.....Thanks for the warning」

Suura-san's smile and Elk's reproachful gaze intersected. Moreover, it had become a dangerous atmosphere, why?

In between all that, the waitress suddenly came, and put a expensive-looking alcohol to me.

「? Err, this.....?」

I hadn't ordered it, I tried to say that but,

「.....Sorry, Suura-san, Elk, I'm going out for a while」

I said that, and dranked the alcohol in one gulp.It is still strange tasting.

「? What happened? Toilet?」

「In that case, there is one on the other side」

「Yeah, I will be back」

While informing the two, I stood from the seat.....pretended to go towards toilet, and head towards someplace completely different.

With a coaster in hand which was put along with alcohol before. It had words written『I am waiting on the balcony seat of the second floor』.

Ah, coaster, is the cloth or paper that is spread on the table before putting a cup on it. It is used for not leaving stains on table.

On it, the person who sent this to me, had written this message with an oil-based ink.

Then, after reaching the balcony seat where the person it waiting,

「Huh, you seriously came here? I thought you would become vigilant, but this is somewhat unexpected」

「Well.....if it was someone I don't know then I wouldn't have come, Zari」

And the person waiting there was Zari.

Though his attire are different, but due to his distinctive hairstyle and the fact he fought with us, though only once, I remember him clearly.

At the time I looked the balcony seats from quite some distance, because my eyes were better than normal, I was able to see him too at that time.

There, after knowing Zari sent the message I came here. Or who in their

right minds accept such a suspicious summon.

Zari signaled with his hands to sit. I will hear his request or not, but because I'm making those two wait, so let's reject the offer.

「Ah, I see. Indeed, making a lady wait is ill-mannered. Sorry sorry」

「You got that right. So, I don't want to waste time, why did you call me here?」

「Okay, then without beating the bush. It is just normal salutations, because in future we might rely on each other」

「Do you mean being as friends because we are fellow adventurers?」

「That is half. The other half is.....because I have heard something from a person」

What is that suggestive attitude?Who the hell is that『person』?

「Well, thought『that person』is normally free and uncontrollable, but because of the social position, they cannot possibly meet an adventurer frequently, and at times of passing messages to/from『that person』, there is a need for a trustable person. There, I am introduced as person who will accompany you in public and private matters and will be the indirect line connecting you and『that person』. Still, for『that person』to be so courteous to you makes we wonder about your history, just who the hell are you?」

.....He just declared it all of a sudden, but it means something like this, eh?

That『that person』introduced Zari to me. As a messenger for themselves, and for me an advisor. Of course, our relationship is only normal fellow adventurers.

I see, courteous to me.....oh fuck it, who on earth is『that person』?

Then, Zari guessed I wanted to know the person, and without making any voice moved his mouth.....

『I』

『R』

『E』

『N』

『E』

.....Ah,『that person』, eh.

『I'm also an adventurer specializing in that aspect. It might sound conceited, but I'm quite excellent in this work. And my face is well-known

at many levels」

「That aspect?」

「You can call it Information investigation specialist. it's not frank like a spy, but.....we people not only investigate and explore danger areas but also get any information client needs and take rewards upon offering the information. It is also OK for interpersonal information, of course, we protect the secret of client?」(TN: That infor investigation specialist in short is an high-class information broker)

「.....Something like detective?」

「Fighting scenes, to some extent, are OK. Without any request, for gaining rewards, we sometimes roam here and there independently」

Hearing more, he was independently snooping around those traders who were smuggling『Blood Maple』 because there was suspicious air around their shops too.

But because the security was tight – that wrap of『maple』, if it was opened even once others would have known it -, so he wasn't able to confirm the contents inside. The numbers too were always checked, so even after confirming that it was something bad, he wasn't able to take it out.

I see. If it was like he tolerated even after knowing, I would've gotten angry, but in this case, it can't be helped.

So, Zari is superior among those type of adventurers. To the extent that one of the big shots of Guild gave him a work.

Ire.....『that person』know his name, so he must quite famous. So it was because of this high abilities that he was able to.....peek Suura-san and Elk taking bath that day. I can agree to it then.

.....Of course it wasn't to peek Elk or Suura-san but for confirming I and them were not related to that smuggling case.

「So if there is any message from 『that person』or if you have any message for『that person』, I would pass it. Of course, you can personally request something from me too. Though it would be need suitable reward, and I will be able to help you」

「.....About that」

「Hm?」

「Well, you're personal history is all fine, but.....It's hard to trust that『that person』said to watch over me, it's just too crazy」

「Ah, well, you're right.....then, look at this」

Then Zari.....opened up his bag and took out something. And, presented it to me.

「This.....」

「To me.....it looks like normal feathers of bird.『That person』was saying you will believe me if I show you this. If you like, you can confirm it when you meet that person.....」

「.....Ah, Yeah. Got it, I will believe you」

「Oh, really? Well, if you're going to believe then there is no problem. Anyway, nice to meet you, Minato Quadrille-kun」

「Right. Same here Zari.....err.....」

「I'm Zari Torantor. I don't remember telling my full name to you, so no problem」

Saying that, we shook hands. I also returned the feathers.

Well, I don't know if his character is made from being in a dangerous faction or because of something else.....well I will know in future. If that Irene-san sent him, so though being peculiar, he can be trusted.

The proof for that was, these, golden『feathers of bird』. They are the feathers of『Stork』, I saw them at the time I met Noel-neesan. There is no difference, neither in appearance or scent.

But because there was no letter then it must be because Irene-san wanted me to trust him. It won't be strange for that person to get feathers from mom.

Then, I can trust him for the time being.

Like that, I tried to return back down to the two ladies who were waiting for me, but Zari called out to me as if he suddenly remembered something.

「Ah, that's right Minato-kun, as the sign of our friendship let me present you an information」

「Information?」

「Yeah. Do you know about『other name』?」

.....other name?

That, alias type of thing which is added in front of name?

In a sense it is cool, but in another sense it is like incarnation of a person suffering from 8th grader syndrome.....so thought cool it is bad. I do want it, but yeah it's better to give up.

Famous adventurers have that. There are also cases people introduce themselves using the other name and surrounding people start making rumors.

Similarly, Zari has『sandstorm』as his other name, though not many people know about it.In other words, he might be called as『Zari of

the Sandstorm』?

Yeah, in the fight before he did use sand magic, so his other name is fitting him but.....no comment.

And, know what, Suura-san too has a other name. Her name is『Frost Archer Princess』. It came because she could use bow and arrow, and ice magic skillfully.

Well, I do think it is cool.....but I still don't want it. If I was called as『Minato of the ☆☆』, then I would want to dig a hole and bury myself in it.

When I think about this,

「It is still not well known, but.....it is spreading gradually, so it would be good to tell you about it. Even you would want to know, right? Your『other name』」

.....Wt!\$!\$!@#\$f? [TL : means what the fuck!]

Chapter 37 – Melancholy of『Black Lion』

Today too, wind-cutting sounds reverberate in the vacant land. It was sparring with Elk, which had already become a daily routine.

Even the recently increased onlookers don't know about this place, so practicing here is just alright!.

It's that usual sight, but there are some things different from before.

First, there is a spectator. Well, the spectator is only Alva.

At the time I am about to leave the house (sometimes even before), it keeps on staring at me intensely. As if saying『Take me too!』

Well, I can leave it at inn, but there is no harm even if it comes here so I take it out here.Recently, another reason has been added.

And recently, in non-combat times it rests on my shoulder or sometimes on top of my head. At the time of training and battle, it rests on some appropriate tree in the vicinity.

And the other thing that changed is, Elk. Recently, though gradually, she has gotten able to move more better compared to before.

A week before, her battle posture was full of holes, but now, though it can't be said perfect by any standards, it sure has improved.

Her way of taking balance and movements of legs have improved, her style of hit-and-run has gotten to the point of being conducted with just a single step. The careless jump I pointed out the other day is also almost gone.

Her powerless attacks by just swinging the dagger have gotten better, she is now able to give out an attack with enough back power to follow-up.

The dagger coming at my throat while making an beautiful arc was considerably different from before in speed, sharpness and even power.

As a bonus, her means of attack is not only dagger, she even uses elbow or knees at the right time, increasing her attack frequency, coincidentally the gaps in her form vanished.

I just explained it quite simply, but this is, in truth, quite a great thing.

After all it was only three weeks before, when we both started this training.

Showing this much progress in such less time isn't something a normal person can do?

In the first place training like this show results little by little that the person themselves don't become aware of it.

Marathon and Boxing, from Earth can be considered great examples.

Running for months, years, and then finally the time is reduced by several seconds only,

Or Punching the punching bag tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of times and then finally the power of fist is slightly increased.

Like that, the things that take lots of time to complete, Elk did it in just three weeks with visible results already.

Though she has her technical foundations built hard, but still this is impossible without a great talent potential. NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK IT.

If the current Elk fought against a crowd of goblin alone, she would be able to insta-kill five or six goblins without even getting scratched.

Side-by-side she is even training about magic -Though I'm able to do much help here-, going at this rate she is sure to grow even more than I had thought.

With a little more training, she might even fight against Little Beasts.

The studying of that『Dagger』is also finished and it's gaining its original shine little by little, depending on the power of magic, she might be able to fight even more powerful demons.

「But, still there's a long way to go」

「—Wha!?!」

I dodged the dagger attacking towards my throat, and hold her arm.

Using that momentum, I used the one-armed shoulder throw, and threw Elk.

Most probably, Elk fell on the ground without understanding what actually happened.

Though, the place I chose to throw her was soft with somewhat grasses growing on, it shouldn't be painful as it looks. Though, she is choking on the leakage of somewhat air which was present in her lungs.

「In terms of sharpness, the attack was fine, but the more larger you swing, the larger the gap is, we have to do something about it. In that case, the scariest would be the counter defense just like what I did」

「You mean making a countermeasure for it? For instance?」

「In my case, when I have to counter attack upon getting my fist blocked would be, rotating while dodging and using that momentum to dash out a roundhouse kick, moving inwards and then doing a tackle.」

「Setting the kick aside.....I'm powerless, so tackles is impossible. So this is the new assignment.」

「Yep, analyze and cognize it yourself and it's all good.」

I lend my hand to the exhausted-looking Elk for standing up.

She somewhat breathed heavily, but Elk finally stood on her own two feet.

In comparison with that, I am well, still with lots of composure. Even my breath isn't disordered.

「Fuu.....you seen too full of composure. Even the time in forest, or when we were fighting continuously, you were always calm. Just how much stamina you have got?」

「Dunno? Now that you say it, in the past some years, other than when training with mom, I have never exhausted my stamina」

「Ah, I see.....」

The training with mom was.....Yeah, just completely.....Yep.

The situation where mom's attack with power more than a bazooka, either fist, kick, with super fast speed coming at me from any direction was just too much. These two situations just can't be compared.

Even more, not only close combat, she would even use magic, and attack from genuinely every direction with no dead angle to be found,

unless and until I sharpened all my senses to their extent and used full speed along with power, I would've died easily.

With that much, my stamina and endurance would barely last 30 minutes or so.

Incidentally, during training, mom got too high because of happiness at my growth that she raised the level of her magic and the result.....a scorched of 1 km of diameter, where no vegetation would ever grow, was created. At that time, well I almost fucking died.

Thinking about that, everything else just seems like eating a cake.

A full marathon can only be considered as a jogging to me, even a triathlon might be a good exercise.

.....I thought about it after saying, but aren't I myself quite a monster?

While I'm thinking that, Elk said words filled with sarcasm.

「Truly impressive, right.....The great『Black Lion』」

Elk smirked.

「.....Just stop with that.....」

I become dejected.



『Black Lion』

The『Second Name』of mine, which I was told by Zari the other day.

The originators were, unexpectedly, the subordinates of Suura-san who just happened to be in the carriage on that day.

According to what I hear, that『Recruit-oriented Group』was, well full of new recruits, and are great people who are considered as promising by the surroundings.

Moreover with this matter, where no matter what, not even one person may come back alive, they all made it back alive, this made them centre of topic.

Inevitably, it also reached to my『Adventurer in Black』stuff. Then they even added something totally pain in the ass thing like『If he wasn't there, we would've been exterminated』.

At that time, some person unintentionally said my second name, and with that as the trigger, the name『Black Lion』came into existence.

.....Currently, the name is being rapidly spread out.

It says,

That adventurer, without using magic, just uses his fist and legs to beat various kinds of demons to pulp.

It says,

He runs through the battlefield like a gale of wind, mows down every enemy, and even saved his comrades from crisis.

That bravery is exactly like a fierce lion.....!

.....Rumours like that too, are all what I heard from Zari.

Just F'ing Shut UP!! Don't add that name which seems like Chuunibyou at it's peak! Please I beg you!

Or rather, though I rarely use magic, but didn't I damn use weapons! Ah, well, I think it doesn't matter, but STILL!

And there more stuff to come,

Like, because he can defeat demons empty-handed『Deadly Body』

Like, because I use gauntlets, rod, iron ball, and all have black luster so I'm also called『Kurogane』

And because I wear black clothes all over and because I burnt the last grasshopper with just bare hands, I'm also called『Char-griller』

Starting from Chunibyou it goes away from it, and whats more, I've got lots of other second names for myself. I just damn HATE IT!!

Or rather, the last『Char-griller』, it sounds less of second name and more of insult to me.

While enduring the embarrassment which came by remembering it, I increased the speed for close combat with the person who made me this embarrassed, Elk.

And Elk was just having her hands full with evasion while shouting『Sorry! Really sorry!』, suddenly my ears catch the sound of something nearing us from the brushwood on the other side of vacant land, I even heard the breathing of that animal.

I looked over there only to find, two stray wolves who-god-knows-when entered here and were heading towards us, while drooling, revealing their hunger.

However, their prey wasn't me or Elk, rather.....a simple-looking bird sitting at a place slightly away from us, it was Alva.

As for that Alva, it's sitting on the mountain of scraps rather than some tree, while watching the wolves. Surely he noticed them, but he doesn't move.

There is still 20 meters between them, not a distance one could just cross in a single jump.

Even so, seeing the prey Alva not showing any signs of running, they thought he couldn't move due to fear and so increased their speed.

Alva, as usual, didn't move, not even a bit, just like sculpture.

And just like that, the moment them Wolves entered the jumping range area,

SFX: HhYyUuBbOo!

The fired off—fireball magic hit one of the wolf.....and blasted away the whole skull of the wolf starting from the upper jaw to the crown of head.

The lower jaw which lost its support and joints just kept on hanging languidly like a splatter.

The comrade, who was by its side, had its over-all length shrank in a second, it got scared, and the other wolf stiffened and stopped moving.

Immediately after, Alva, still as usual, soared the sky without making flapping sounds, and this time fired ice pillars counting more than the numbers of fingers on both hands.

The other one, though didn't get by all ice pillars, but some of them hit it, and this guy dead too.

Both were magic, I've got no recollection of teaching, yet I have seen them being used somewhere.

Both of us saw Alva with half interest and half astonishment.

It is a scene which I had seen quite a lot recently.

Frankly speaking, during our fight in『Crimson Forest』, Alva had been watching the whole fight from inside the carriage, saw the various sorts of magic used by Suura-san and others, and learned them on its own.

Seriously~ though I heard from Irene-san, turns out this guy is seriously out of the norm.....!

Alva learns magic just by watching it, and based on circumstances he reproduces them to such an extent which could put the original version to shame.

Along with that, recently, I have been feeding it fine quality food with the meat from『Subspecies』as centre –seems like the more it eats the more powerful it becomes-and its magical power and normal power too are raised.

The magic which he fires now are completely better than me, or rather, near completely than the magic shot out by a common knight.

The variation also increased, at some point which I, as usual, didn't know about.

Variations like the『Fireball』just now, or the ice magic, whose name I don't know, and also the sand magic Zari used, along with the lightning magic which someone used at some point.

Moreover, currently it can also use the wind bullet or wind blade magic which the『Subspecies』used.

.....Even so, isn't this guy just a week old, right?

Seeing my own pet doing things I cannot do with just wild instinct made me feel jealous, but it's from that sort of race and I didn't have talent in this area from before, like that I got over my jealousy in just ten seconds.

In that way, I have two rookies (?) with promising future as my disciples.

In the sparring with Elk from now on, I am thinking of making more of a real combat bit by bit. Coincidentally going on further with the magic training too.

At this rate, in near future, she would show results which would not only surprise herself but even me. No, the parts she already knows, from now on, may get an accelerated growth.

By the time her movements become more refined, and she becomes more adept at handling magic.....or maybe near perfect, then maybe I

can teach some of my original magic to her.

As for Alva, I just need good food to feed him.....the rest of improvement; can't he do it on its own?

The only thing I can do for it are, to take it out for stroll in different places and showing it different types of magic. Either way, I cannot teach it the magic which could be fired, in the first place me teaching Alva that would be like lecturing Buddha about enlightenment. Alva will learn on its own just by watching.

I heard this from Irene-san too that, in high ranking races like Alva's Nevalides, ones who inherit some amount of intellect and knowledge from the parents are common.

Alva is an exception even among them, that's why it has got good brains. It knows the way to use magic from the start, and even knows that food with magical power stuffed inside is needed for growth.

Alva already knew the way to fly in sky, and how to fly without making sound, moreover it mastered it after just a little bit of training.

And more than anything, whilst being just a week old, he already understood us humans' language, due to which he would listen to order and do it perfectly.

This is somewhat ominous, but still I can't wait to see its growth too. Based on circumstances, it might fill up my weakness, the use of magic.

Well, I did thought that he is not just any soothing pet.

At any rate, let it be Elk or Alva, the fact I'm raising such great talented people (talented bird) is more than enough to make me happy. I now understand why cultivation games of this theme were fad for some time.

「Well Alva is also improving little-by-little, shan't we too continue?」

「.....Indeed」



20 minutes later,

After finishing the first phase of the sparring, which had been growing longer per time, both of us were taking a rest after dealing with the sweat. Alva was perching on my shoulder, as if it had been waiting for this. Oh this cute little bastard.

Currently, eating, the mood is of picnic. We thought that we should eat outside too once in a while, so the packed lunch we brought, meat of『Subspecies』was being ate by him,

Just, this meat of『Subspecies』.....well, the stock might be running low.

Even the appetite of the growing Alva is a great deal, but though I dry the food, it still gets spoiled easily, depending on the parts, there were also those which couldn't be eaten due to their state.

That's why, at this pace it would last till three or four days.

「Elk, according to Suura-san.....Exceed Hoppers should be present on the other side of Ritoras Mountain, right?」

「Yep. After that I tried searching more info about it and found that they live in a place called『Green Canyon』, a ravine present on the other side of mountain.....eh, don't tell me you want to go there?」

「.....Alva's food is about to finish, so I was thinking of taking a jogging around there, and just by chance hunting new food」

「.....That's impossible for you. Keeping your strength aside, with your poor sense of direction, even having a map with you....., you would surely be lost in the Ritoras Mountain before you even reach the place」

「.....Can't you accompany me?」

「Sorry, that's just too much. That place is a leading danger area around this city; even the demons appearing there are high-ranked.....I just can't get close to there. Even with you, it's going to be dangerous」

「I see.....」

Well, can't be helped. As for me, I think demons of that rank wouldn't be much of trouble, but let alone returning back, me reaching there also seems an impossible wish.

Of course, if Elk accompanied me, I will protect her with full power, but going through a danger area with that high of danger level is going to be hard, physically and mentally too. She hates it, so I can't forcibly ask her to accompany me to such an Danger Area.

Sigh, what shall I do?

No well.....in the『forest』there are demons with magical power, like Red Lizard or Magic Bunny –It would still require Elk to guide me- , but it possible I want to feed Alva good stuff.

「So a good news for the current Minato-kun♪」

「Waaah!？」

And, due to the sudden voice of Zari, who appeared from behind by vanishing his presence, Elk jumped up. I, of course, knew about it, but still ignored, including the words he just said.

Alva also seemed to know about it, so reaction by it too.

Wait? This guy got a wide network of information, right? In that case, maybe he can tell me other demons with good amount of magical energy

stuffed in them, just like that『Subspecies』.

So, attacking while the iron is hot, I asked Zari, and as he was eavesdropping from before, he knew about my situation.

「Didn't I just say, A GOOD NEWS. In truth, currently on the summit of Ritoras Mountain, some migratory birds' called『Canfolus』have come, oh and they have magical energy」

「Eh!? For Real!?!」

「For real. Their rank are D. Well the amount of magical energy would lose to that『Subspecies』, but I have heard that the purity of magical energy is almost the same. Shouldn't you try at least once on them」

Whoah, this is damn great news! Even their levels, and the habitat, yeah, it's completely reasonable and convenient.

In the Ritoras Mountains, where demons are of low ranks, a group of Rank D demons came out, means the guild might have already warned to newbie to not go near the summit, however, to me and Alva that is a good news.

Taking a glance at Elk, she showed eyes as if wanting to say『Can't be helped』and nodded.

「Alva, the next food candidate is a bird, are you fine with cannibalism?」

—Piiiiiiii! (Agreed)

Alrighty! Now that it's decided, we need to hunt before they are hunted! Hit while the iron is hot!!!

「Alrighty! Then Zari, thanks for the info there! I'm in a hurry, will give you the gratitude later」

「No problemo, before you go there is still one more message for you. The glassed receptionist told you to come for the update of card as your assessment is already done」

「Yeah, Roger」

Then, I will go there after hunting that『Canfolus』or whatever demon.

「Then, let's go now, Elk, Alva」

「Yes yes.....please go slow, or I might throw up」

—Piiiiiiiliiii!

I will take care of it!

☆☆☆

.....By the way,

After hunting the Canfolus, which just happened to be many, so thinking about future I hunted around ten of them (will smoke 'em all), then returned to the guild.

Should I say expected, inside the guild, our guild card was updated under the stares of others.

With great frequency, I had defeated many demons, so compared to when 『Naga』was defeated, my『assessment』took more time, and after some minutes, the result was engraved on our guild card.

Minato Quadrille

Rank: A

Elk Caucus

Rank: D

.....Great, now I don't have to worry about it.

Chapter 38 – The Season When It Blooms Part 1-2

The place was『Labyrinth of Naga』, a dungeon which to me, based on the level, isn't much of importance.....in the lowest floor.

In front of our eyes was, the strongest demon in this labyrinth is not for『Naga』, the『Little Beast』who was panting and drooling.

They weren't thin and frail like that time, but in their original form with lots of flesh. They are not that much big, but are great (?) demons bringing out the appearance of a C rank demon.

The one confronting that demon.....was not me.

The one standing in front of Little Beast is.....Elk with dagger in hand, and lowering her posture while preparing to lash out.

As for nervousness, yes she is nervous after all, judging from the way she looks like. Well not anything unnatural. It's the first time for her to fight against a demon this strong without me.

No matter if Elk has gotten stronger a lot with the training and stuff, but still, nervous things make one nervous, no change in there.

After all, just a little while ago, it was an enemy she would run away if ever come across it.....without any guarantee of running away unscathed.

Whilst I was thinking that, Little Beast moved first.

It rushed in with a speed not-so-good for a newbie, as expected of the strongest demon in the labyrinth. That rush which can insta-kill a normal person, or if truly lucky would get almost all ribs broken, wasn't something the Elk from a month ago would be able to dodge.

Elk evaded that with a rather quick and sharp step. And while passing the demon, her naked『Dagger』flashed.

It was none other than the memento of her mother.....which had gotten past the polishing work after I got a special whetstone from sister, and now it's blade is showing the original shine of a crystal.

The next moment, the knife blade started shining in green, because of the green.....wind magical power Elk was clad in was pouring out into the dagger.

Due to that, the air resistance became null, and that attack which had its sharpness increased a notch, ran along the nape of Little Beast's neck.

Moreover it wasn't something hit blindly with luck, but it was shot out after seeing through the movement of prey, aiming at vital and thinking of perfect angle. A perfect attack, seeming ready to stop at any point, if a counter-attack came.

Elk's blade passed through while making a sharp *Slash* sound. And the next moment, quite a lot of fresh blood spewed out from that wound, maybe because her attacked cut the artery. A critical hit.

However not relaxing herself there, she quickly jumped back. Safely, with lot of composure, she didn't let her posture break.

Next moment, the place Elk had been before was mowed down by the strong arms of Little Beast. It was most probably a hit in the dark after succumbing to the anger by being cut. After that it was staggering by being caught up in the momentum of its own attack.

Even an attack like that, if Elk too it head-on, the possibility of it not being just『hurtful』, but rather serious was great. This time she dealt with it using serenity. Good Job.

However, even so lowering the guard is never a good thing.

Though the Little Beast had its carotid artery cut, but it's still alive. It will probably rampage for some more minutes. She will have to get over every attack it makes until the time it had bled enough to be in critical state. This particular thing is the difference between her and my, literally『One-hit Kill』fists.

In fact, it lunged out with a rush even wilder than before, again aiming for Elk's life.

She evaded those two or three rushes splendidly, whilst not breaking her breathing order and keeping her guard up. Furthermore, she took out

several throwing knives from the belt on her waist.

And after another rush, she looked here and turned around violently, conveniently the Little Beast stopped at that place to scare her, and the throwing knives pierced into it.

The knives flew in a straight line aiming at the fingertip of feet and hit them. Even the spectator, me was about to go『Whoa!』.

Well then were in for some trivia.

Most of the living beings use the fingers in the『front of feet』to stand up, and a lots and lots of nerves are concentrated there. They are helpful when using the back of foot to kick the ground.

That part is oversensitive to pain, for instance doesn't it hurt like hell when the pinky finger of the leg hits the corner of dresser?

Using that point, Elk hit the fingertip of the hind legs. The Little Beast felt intense pain and was unable to stand up firmly.

Inevitably, the rush from after that became obvious, and with Elk's current agility she could dodge them with lot of composure.

Fast-forward for several minutes. Though it fought hard to kill Elk till the very end, but after reaching the limit of blood leakage, the Little Beast..... fell on the ground with a *bam*

And stopped moving forever after. Still not approaching it with lower guard, Elk confirmed its death and then only did she heave a sigh while relaxing her body.

.....Yep, great. Elk finally completed her『Solo subjugation of Little Beast』quest.

At that point, both me and Alva, who were watching from a distance, met up with her. Noticing our presence Elk faced her vision her, whist on her shoulder, Alva, already familiar with Elk, was play-biting her ear as if to say『Good work』.

This time was Elk testing out her abilities. Basically we do not interfere in these battles, neither give out suggestions.

Of course, the current one was because I had confidence that she would take on a Little Beast herself, if it had gotten out of control, then I would've intervened and saved her. Those worry ended up for naught, as you can see Elk won easily. A complete victory for Elk.

「How you feeling?」

「.....Frankly, it seems unreal」

Even now, while taking deep breath sucking in the cold air into her lungs, she was showing an awkward smile. Looks like she was having a hard time to believe the truth.

「Don't tell me, I, actually killed a Little Beast by myself alone..... something I aimed for as an adventurer.....」

「You've worked hard for that, Elk. Everyday」

「No, but still, I never thought that I would reach till here in this short time.....」

Certainly.....it's only 2 months ago when I first met her..... 2 months since that『Naga』's case and 1 month since that『Subspecies』' case. I started the training with Elk after killing of『Naga』, so the training time would be.....less than 2 months, eh.

The Elk at that time barely won against even a single Goblin or Wolf, now defeated a Little Beast this brilliantly.....No matter if she knew the basic knowledge from before, growing at this pace is quite splendid and she even became stronger.

Well, there are still lots of parts where she got her ass saved by guard protectors and weapons.....but still she subjugated a『Little Beast』one her own.

Though not to the extent of what my mom assigned to me, this must be the result of somewhat hard training menu which I gave to her.

And, we went out for adventures every day, and fought against

numerous demons in the wild while accumulating experience, this fact was also big in the battle just now. Practice (TN: 実践=Jissen) and Combat (TN: 実戦=Jissen here too) are the greatest training after all. [TL: What a shitty pun is it]

And, with this and that, currently the maintenance of the『Dagger』, whose explanation I've yet to give, was over, moreover Elk has started to learn on how to handle her weapon more skillfully.

Apparently, Elk's mother herself didn't knew the identity of this dagger.

Its true identity is, an extremely rare magic item excavated from ancient ruins, only if it appears, which in itself is too rare.

Particularly the『Wind』magic Elk uses has the effect of enhancing the speed of attack and its sharpness, an ideal magic for her, who aims at the vitals.

Maybe the love for the memento of her mother too was helping, now that she is getting more skilled gradually.

This is the truth; she even has luck and talent. I'm quite eager to see her future.

Well then, let's call it day now, and take this Little Beast back to the guild. It's just a single so I can shoulder it and take it back. Its fur too is good.

Most probably, this would end up being ingredients for her assessment, and Elk's rank would increase. Even more, if I report that I didn't help at all.



Upon exiting the labyrinth, the time was already near evening, the time sure runs fast.

For the time being, for converting this『Little Beast』, which is hanging on my shoulder within a jute bag, into money, we both walk along the

path at a fast pace. The jute bag is quite big, so it makes me stand out, but now I don't even care.

After all, my face has become so widespread recently that I now don't even want to care, as there is no meaning in that. I'm the mysterious adventurer who came from Rank F to Rank A in less than a month. 『Adventurer in Black』, now even 『Black Lion』.

Well as expected, I was called out more times compared to the time with 『Naga』.....but as it was my second time experiencing this, I was quite familiar with that stuff already, and it didn't concern me as much. Parrying it efficiently, I am maintaining my adventurer life, I think.

While thinking that stuff, I walk the main street of the city, and tasty scent came drifting around from shops on either side, and tickle my nose. At the same time, my body, which had done some good exercise in the labyrinth, started giving an honest reaction to my appetite.

It's about time I give a reward to my hard working body by buying stuff and eating it immediately, but I don't have enough time right now.....

Why is it so? It's about time the adventurers out to venture labyrinths and danger areas start returning. In that case, the stares pointed at me, and invitations I would have to reject would increase by 1.5%. Truly, utterly, pain-in-the-ass.

It can't be helped, let's walk and eat after finishing the work in Guild, while I try to shake off the tasty scents from my nose, I, abruptly, notice something.

Along with the tasty scent of kebabs and other grilled stuffs, there is another smell.....

.....This is.....a flower?

I look around the surroundings, and see.....several shops here and there selling flowers.

Though I say that, these all are not florist, most of them are used as medicinal plants, or as foodstuff.....the genuine 『florist』 are rather rare here.

Even so, compared to yesterday.....today the market is full with flowers. What is happening?



「Ah.....that. It's already that season」

「Season?」

After arriving at guild, while we wait for the assessment for giving the『Little Beast』, I ask Elk about the scene I noticed before, and that was answer.

「There is a place called as『Flower Valley』, it takes about 3 days via carriage to reach. Do you know about there?」

I shake my head. Elk makes an『as expected』type of expression and continued her explanation.

Seems like that『Flower Valley』was literally, a place with lots of flowers and is also a producing area where various things related to『Flowers』are produced.

There, since long ago people have made a small community and have been living there, they all make their living by selling the various special products found in the valley to Traders who come for buying things.

Live flowers for vase, flowers for luxury grocery items or even dry flowers for admiration purposes, along with flowers that work as medicinal plants; and various other things could be taken from there.

In the『Special products』even that『Blood Maple』is present. However this one is a genuine legal product, with license.

That『Flower Valley』, all year long, has some sort of flower blossoming there, let it be winter or any other season, and the current season is the time when stock replenishing from『Flower Valley』is at its peak.

I see, so that's why there were so many flowers. Doesn't it get

troublesome for people suffering from hay fever? Not like I know if it exists in this world.

Hearing more, the shops selling a thing called as『Flower Dish』made by using lots of those special products also appear in markets during this time. Just like a limited-time offer. Though there is still time before evening meal, but frankly, this talk aroused my interest greatly.

While I'm making Elk feel astonished by my easy-to-read expression and my already-revealed appetite, the assessment was over and we were called from the counter, so we headed towards the place Riin-san was present at.

Taking the Guild Card and the reward.....there was a change in Elk's card; the displayed rank had changed from『D』to『C』.

Apparently, the achievements she had accumulated till now, along with this Little Beast ending up as the last move, her rank increased.

But, there was no unnatural feeling. For Elk who is now able to solo kill a Little Beast, this evaluation can be said quite valid.

Of course, though her foundation had been good from before, but increasing from Rank『E』to『C』in just a little over 2 months is an unprecedented thing, even Riin-san praising her, and Elk was surprised over herself.

But, today's surprise didn't end with just that, we were told a concerning talk by Riin-san.

「A request by name?」

「Yes. A request addressed to Minato-sama. It is fine to take it along with Elk-sama」

Saying that, Riin-san presented forward the single page of request in her hands, I take it over and survey it.

I read the stuff written on the paper, which was clearly bigger than the ones affixed on『Board』, and surely the written stuff was about a quest designated to the request adventurer, me. Minato Quadrille.

I had heard that upon getting famous, stuff like this also increases, but it's the first time I'm experiencing this.

"Just who is the client?", thinking that I left the request details for later and look at the name of client.....HUH!?

「Therefore, it's fine today or even tomorrow, so the client wants to meet you and explain the details. Ah, of course, it's not mandatory to accept it, so you can decline the request.....what would you do?」

「Hmm」



And some minutes later, we both visited the origin of that『Client』.

「Glad you came here. Minato, even Elk-chan」

To the origin of my sister, who was shaking her cream-colored fox ears up and down happily.

No, still for the client to be Noel-nee-san

「Ah, Elk-chan raised up to Rank C, right? Congratulations. I will prepare a celebration this time」

「Just how fast are your ears. This just happened some minutes before」

「Fufu, never underestimate the Trader's intelligence network」

Holy Frigging Scary!

From the time after the case about『Naga』ended, we had been accompanying nee-san and receiving favors, it's already been 2 months since then. In this time I have come to understand just what type of person my sister is.

She's a really good person, but also, though not to the point of black bellied, but she is really strict, she does things mercilessly, her mercantile mind-set keeps on appearing and disappearing in her smile. In conversations she would use sharp painful words, or sometimes glare

with her severely sharp eyes.

Maybe she might even be trying to find information even in this casual talk, or trying to start at psychological warfare, well now-a-days I think this stuff quite always.

Maybe because she has that sort of mind-set that she is able to reign over a big trade company.

Well, setting that aside, today we both are here to hear about the request by the client, my sister, so while telling our intentions we sit on the sofa.

At that time, I had a hunch that nee-san's eyes squinted.....maybe my imagination?



The request of nee-san was, in simple words, the escort of a Trader Group.

I had heard from Elk just before, in this season, there are a lot of Traders who replenish their stock from the commodities in『Flower Valley』, and then sell those here.

The types are various, like for admiration purposes or for flower arrangements, flowers for medicine or for eating, dry flowers and saplings of flowers and even seeds.

Furthermore, using the nectar of flowers or the materials used in food or doses, various types of processed goods like sweets and perfumes are made.....In short, in this season just too damn hell of things can be bought.

As expected the Traders get proactive in replenishing the stock with stuff which is popular and has direct relation with making profits, at the same time the Guild is flooded with escort requests.

Well no wonder. That so-called『Flower Valley』is a region which is across several danger areas, if route taken from this『Volka』City.

If they go to restock by themselves, then they would certainly need escorts with good ability, or else the journey won't be safe. Hence restocking personally is impossible for people barely scraping by peddling. The people who can do it are Traders or Brokers.

People other than that would restock their stocks by buying the stuff restocked by big companies, via their broker upon giving them commission while the stuff has already turned expensive, and so including the maintenance cost, the stuff becomes ridiculously pricey, therefore not many people do this.

Sister's『Malras Association』is the personally restocking side. And for that, as expected, they recruit escorts, in that regards I was hired by her this time.

Of course there are other than us who are recruited, but she wanted to recruit me too after all she knows my ability and my temper.

「Minato is A, and Elk-chan has raised her Rank to C, I can trust you both enough. Reward is 1 Gold coin, the reward can be increased based on conditions. Time limit is making a round trip between the valley and city, and also staying in the valley, so it would be a little bit over 2 weeks. So, how is it? Not bad, right?」

「I see, you're quite generous. What about the meals en route?」

「Will give it. Well if you find that not sufficient, then just hunt some animal nearby and make a food of it」

「Approximately a half-moon time. Isn't this too long?」

「It between the medium-term and long-term. It's neither short nor too long」

Like that, Elk checks the minute details of request details. Noel-nee-san kept on answering Elk's question rush without showing even a bit of disagreeable expression, meanwhile Elk kept on asking questions without any reserve, through-and-through. Maybe sister is already used to being probe for the true intentions during business negotiations.

Elk being Elk, was closely investigating with her cautious attitude, after

all she has had hard time because of a contract.

If it was me, I would've just glanced over it and accepted it. It's great to have such a friend.

「In the path we would pass by en route, there is a danger area with danger rank D, right?」

「It's the route we use every year, so I can surely say that place is the one which would take the longest time but balance with safety would be good. The demons which appear wouldn't be that strong」

「Hmm.....In that case.....」

Like that, while staring-out the request document, Elk entered into a lengthy consideration.

She compared the Risks and Returns, and finally after one again investigating the request details, the answer was.....



Few minutes later,

In the room, from where Minato and Elk had already left, Noel was still sitting in the sofa.

There, a female with brown hair appeared from a door, different from the one Minato and Elk left from.

Noel just moved her glance to her, that girl traverse across the room, came beside the sofa Noel was sitting on, and sat on the back side of the sofa.

「It's good that they took the request, right, Noel-chan」

「All thanks to you, Irene-san」

Noel gave a nonchalant reply, but Irene didn't seem to be concerned with that. Like that, she came forward and sat on the sofa on which Minato sat before, so as to sit in front of Noel.

「Sorry, I had you called here, but made you wait」

「Oh no, it's not bothering me. But, you sure are in your own troubles. To be monitoring your own brother, even if it is the order from Lily」

「.....For that, though I am quite reluctant, but I don't care about it. Personally too I think he would become quite a troublesome guy if left alone」

「? Really?」

To Irene's unexpected question, Noel continued after standing up from the sofa.

「How does he, our youngest brother, look to you Irene-han?」

To her question with a strange mysterious expression, Irene replied without any trouble.

「I think he is quite a good guy, he's got ability, is kind and also frank. It's really rare in this age. Though I think his mind is somewhat childish」

「Just that much?」

「Yeah, just that much. Other than the fighting strength to insta-kill A Rank demons, and magical energy of superdreadnought level, along with several original magic and out-of-norm equipments, oh and also having a legendary magical bird as pet, he's just a normal young boy. Is this answer fine?」

Irene spit it out in just one breath.

Normal people, upon hearing this, would either get surprised and open their eyes from surprise or hold their heads with a sense of giving up, however Noel's expression was none of the two.

As if not satisfied with the current answer, she furrowed her brows.

Maybe that reaction was quite different and unexpected, signs of bewilderment appear on Irene's face.

「So, as expected.....even someone like Irene-han can't notice it」

「.....What do you mean by that?」

「.....There is something I want to show you, please come here」

Saying that, Noel opened the『secret door』of the Sofa on which Irene was sitting, and retrieved a『Card』from it, then opened the door to her office.

Irene too sensed a different atmosphere and disappeared into the room after Noel.

Chapter 39 – Redhead Dark Elf [Part 1-2]

A day after we accepted the request of Noel-nee-san.

I, after quite a long time, was moving alone, without Elk accompanying me.

That's because of things under the pretext of 'Isn't it fine to at least rest for 1 day', so no going to danger areas or dungeons for today; hence she is secluded in her room and is resting.

Elk must be tired after solo defeating a Little Beast yesterday.

Though it looked like she defeated it easily –In fact, it was easy-but she might have mental fatigue piled up, or so I think.

However in the morning, I remembered that today was the scheduled date for the arrival of shuriken and other stuff which I ordered at sister's place.

It's not like that today is the arrival date, so it's needed to go there for getting my stuff, but I can get rid of this habit from my previous world, there unless I went to take the stuff I mail-ordered, I would never be able to settle down.

However, a man should never go back on his words.

So, I let Elk rest, and decided to go alone.

At that time, there was my shortcoming of『Poor sense of Direction』kicking in, so Elk even asked『Should I go with you』, but I refused.

Malras Association is a place I have gone to many times, though with Elk. I ain't some damn kindergartener, I won't get lost after all this time.

Though I have poor sense of direction, but it's on the level that I'm fine with a familiar road, this I confirmed recently. However to a place I've never been to, I would be not fine even if given a map.

Like that, without losing my way, and without the situation turning like sorry I got lost, I was able to reach sister's association and take my stuff.

However, I was not able to sense troubles other than getting lost.

「.....Hm?」

On the way back to inn,

It was at the time I was thinking that recently not many people have been troubling me, like just after the case with『Exceed Subspecies』, at that I was called by many people and had to deal with them.

The moment I got out on the main street, my nose caught a scent different from usual.

Smell of an animal.

Although I say that, it's not a rare thing for this sort of scent to be in the city. The domestic animals is a given, even the materials of demons give that smell, sometimes the domestic animals themselves are demons. There are also cases about demons being raised and reared for their meat or for dairy farms.

However a case with screams of lots of people, accompanied with the stomping sounds of hoof, is something that is not present in my all-too-well memory.

And, right now I just saw a cloud of dust in the front, along with crowds of people seeming like onlookers.

A moment later, they all made great haste and ran towards the sides of main road, then did I see the origin of all this noise.

There was a quite big ox-shaped demon. It looked completely agitated; it was running wildly across the main street, making the people looking from sidelines feel fear. Ah, indeed, that is scary.

Judging from the collar on its neck, and the chain which extends from there and has the end torn would only mean.....It ran away from an animal farm and is on rampage.

Moreover, I do think Elk said this before.....isn't that an E Rank demon called as『Ox』?

Its movements are not slow but are simple, if one fights it in spacious

open plains, which happens to be its habitat, while taking advantages of gaps while fighting, even a novice adventurer would win without much injuries, but looks like it's not going to be like that in this road filled with people.

Moreover, the ox is in a panic and is running here and there in zigzag manner; it ain't something you damned people need to watch with thrill. Who knows when someone is going to be run over by it.

At that time, again for some reason it changed its direction towards an old man and old woman, who couldn't move due to shock, Yikes, it's a direct hit course.

They wouldn't live much long even if save them (Sorry to be rude), but because I was a grandparent-loving child in previous world, so I want people like them to live as their whole span of life.

At that moment,

In this world without any Buddhism.....a single girl stood before the ox and the old couple, while muttering something as if singing in chorus, for praying.

Her movements seemed very natural, so I didn't feel much uncomfortable.

But thinking very well, Hey hey ain't that girl too in damn fucking danger, by the time I reached this thought, I noticed the sword hanging on her waist.

Maybe she is an adventurer or something.....the second I thought that,

「——!!」

For a second, I didn't understand what exactly happened, but immediately after realized the identity of this mysterious feeling which came crashing into me almost too abruptly.

It was bloodlust.

To the strong bloodlust emitted from that girl.....something cold runs

along my spine and my body stiffened.

And maybe the rampaging ox also sensed that, before hitting the girl, it suddenly changed its direction. Whoa, great. Now that old couple and the girl too are safe.

The ox didn't even scratch the skin of that girl, and changed its trajectory to here.....here?

「——Holy shit, this ain't good!」

This time, with the force from before, the rampaging ox came towards me.

I can't possibly evade it, behind me, there are children and other old people, and it might not be a great thing to let it keep on rampaging.

「! Ah crap! Hey you over there it's dangerous.....」

Now only did the miss who made the ox change its way with bloodlust, realized that though the old couple was safe but the direction it was now going into was not safe, so she called out to me like that, but I purposely ignore her and lower my waist.

Immediately after the miss showed an expression of bafflement,

「Hakkeyoi!!」[1]

I thuddingly strike the ox coming at me like a sumo wrestler, for now hurting its horns, then firmly grabbed it and stopped its rush.

Because the force it rushed at me was quite strong, I was pushed back two or three meters, but somehow stopped at that point.

Then, it would be troublesome to let it run somewhere else now, so I grabbed the chain extending from the collar around the neck of ox. Alrighty, everything's fine now.

Then, after some seconds, WOW, shouts of joy rose from the surroundings. Along with voice between the lines of『Holy freak!』『Way to go Bruh』『Eh, is that Black Lion?』.

Fuck, in the end I stood out. And they might completely know that

I'm『Black Lion』from this sort of attire of mine.....aw nooo shiiiit, recently finally people coming to me were getting less.

The rescue currently is, this agitated ox by my side, so the curious onlookers aren't coming close to me. They can only mumble from a far at most.....as for my mood, that mumbling alone is enough to destroy it.

Just when I thought that.....a single brave person came near me without being afraid.

Woot quite brave, hey don't you come here; these two types of feelings were within my heart when I look at the person coming to me.....isn't this the miss from before.

「Hmm.....quite unlike your appearance you're strong, to be able to stop its rush with just pure strength」

Saying that the miss came near me without having any signs of fear of ox, seeing the courageous miss once again, I noticed her characteristic appearance.

Having red hair reaching her waist, and dark brown skin. Her figure was quite glamorous and charming as a woman.....maybe she equals to mom. Covering her body was a red dress, somewhere between a qipao and one-piece dress. The exposure parts were quite more.

A leather belt fastened at the waist. And there, as before, a single sword was present. The golden ornaments are good, and it looks wonderful. Well I won't know if it's a practical sword unless I see the blade.

And the last characteristic thing would be.....her ears, which are long and pointed, like the so-called『Elf ears』.

And the miss with great appearance which anyone would say『Cute』or『Beautiful』, was appraising me while smiling.

Let it be sword, this type of stare, and even the bloodlust from before.....is she also an adventurer?

「Hmm.....though you look so weak. Is it the so-called don't judge a person by their looks? Are you also an adventurer?」

「Ah, Yes, more or less」

「As expected. Oh the surrounding seems to be in uproar.....are you famous? I just came to this city, so don't know much about others」

Ah, I see. Then this miss might not know the name『Black Lion』too. Well, I've struck it with luck.

As well as, maybe because I've been refusing to meet everyone except Elk and Tanya-chan.



A person seeming like the owner of ox, the Trader, came running, saying stuff like『I'm sorry for the carelessness before』and『Thank you very much for stopping it』, so I handed over the ox to him.

The Trader was bending his waist at a perfect 90 degree angle, but miss' stare is strict. Maybe she remembered about the old couple from before was about to die, so while listening his apology closely, she complained back at him sternly.

Well whatever she said was correct, and we should respect the elders, that's why I let her speak her mind.

She let off the Trader after nagging at him for some time, which made me feel that he became smaller with each word, then the miss said some words to the old couple and returned back to me.

.....Seeing her like this makes me feel that the intimidating air from before seems like a lie. Her friendly attitude to me and that old couple makes the sword hanging from her waist seem like it was an accessory.

This miss who might already have realized I was watching her, hesitating and thinking for a bit, said.

「Hey, do you have some time right now? I think it was some sort of fate

that we met here.....I want to say my gratitude and an apology, can you accompany for a meal?」

She invited me while winking.

Eh, what, is she a Playgirl.....as if, it's still daytime. We're both adventurers, so maybe this sort of conversation might take place while greeting someone.

Or rather, what is this thing about gratitude and an apology?

「See, before when I intimidated that『Ox』 it went in your direction, right? And behind you were children and other unrelated people, and you stopped it without harming it. So I wish to apologize and give my gratitude. Is it fine with you?」

Apparently it just happened to be noon so she wanted to invite me to a meal.

But.....I've already promised to Elk, who is waiting at the inn, that I would be back by noon, along with something to eat.

Of course Elk knew about my poor sense of direction, so she warned me『If you don't return by 1'o clock, then I will eat in the bar adjacent to inn』right to my face. Oh damn geez, so she understood me perfectly.

Now that she said that, I would feel bad if she really ate at the bar, that's why I'm reluctant this miss invited me.....but I hesitate. Seeing that, the miss says『Then at least let me treat you to something from the stalls』looks like I will have to compromise.

Well if it was like that, I chose my favorite skewer kebab stall. It was the shop where I ate for the first time when I came to this city, now I'm already a frequent customer there.

Just because Elk wasn't besides me as usual, I was teased by the owner saying『What? are you two-timing?』 -though I denied it with haste, and he laughed saying it was just a joke-anyhow, I ordered 2 skewers per usual for myself.

Then the miss ordered, double of what I ordered i.e., 4 skewers for her own, this somewhat shocked me. Is she a glutton?

And, when we were given the grilled kebabs,

「Here you go Minato! And also.....err.....」

「I'm Sherry. Ah, sorry, I haven't introduced myself till now, right? I'm Sherry, Sherry Saxon. Nice to meet you」

「Ah, Yes, nice to meet you. I'm Minato Quadrille」

After finishing the slightly-belated self-introductions, we took our skewered kebabs and left the shop.



Sherry-san and I headed the same way, so we walked together for a while.

「Huh! You are also an A Rank? You look younger than me!」

「Yeah, well my luck is really good」

「Don't be modest. Let it be your superhuman strength from before, from that slender body.....hmm, you truly are strong?」

In that moment, the eyes of Sherry-san were inspecting me from head to toe it seemed, her eyes glittering like that of a carnivorous animal aiming at its prey.....was it my imagination?

「Now that I say that.....looking at you closely, your body is not thin, but your muscles are toned and compact, right. Isn't it like you don't have any useless fat at all?」

Sherry-san said that while patting my shoulders or touching it, in a mutter which made me wonder if she is talking to me or herself.

At first, surely I was startled, but what she said seemed to hit the mark, so my admiration for her observations ability was increased.

「Having this much power without having a burly arm is really rare..... your muscles and joints also seem flexible. Maybe it is because of your physical constitution? You seem like a warrior type, but your movements seemed more like a martial artist.....is it self-taught?」

「You can see through that much, just after observing and touching me a few times?」

「Well yeah. My family was quite strict, or rather really a great at nagging. They made me learn martial arts, so albeit reluctantly, I was forced to learn it」

“I hated that, so left the home”, like that, Sherry-san just told me about her quite good origins that easily.

However, still it is great. Well I don't know much about body constitution, but she's right about my arms not getting burly no matter how much I train, or that I have no abs, and my martial arts are self-taught, well they are the blend of SFX : Game : Hong Kong Movies in the ratio of 4:3:3.

Sherry-san said that once one learns a particular martial arts, then all of their movements show some signs of that art, which isn't present in mine. Well, I made this with half-heartedness 120%.

Now that she says that, seeing Sherry-san standing pin-straight, seems elegant and maybe is the tell-tale signs (?) of understanding martial arts. No, this is absolutely my imagination, it's not like I can understand it this easily.

And, as to why Sherry-san knows that I'm an A Ranker, it's because we both showed our Guild Cards to each other before.

She showed me first saying『Here you go』, so I thought it would be rude if I didn't show her mine.

I decided to go with the flow, since it wasn't something I needed to hide, and if she asked somewhere else, she would eventually learn about me being the 『Black Lion』, so it was fine.

And, at that time, I found out from seeing her Guild Card that Sherry-

san was also an A ranker just like me. That truly surprised me.

That bloodlust from before, and this posture which reeks of elegance and has no gaps, makes me convinced.

However, her innocent and friendly smile, and her attitude seeming like that of a relative cousin, doesn't make it feel like it's difficult to approach her.

Aren't people like that defined as『Big shots』, eh.

However, that.....stare of a starving carnivorous animal is something I've got completely no clue about, and it's not like I can just fucking ask her.

Well, it's fine. It's not like she is planning something bad.

「But, I'm somewhat happy. Since I came here, I haven't met that many A rankers. The people I used to hang out with when I was B ranker or C, somehow feel estranged, and those irritating types who approach me, begging me to join their groups have increased」

「Ah, I know. They capture you the moment you enter the Guild, or even stalk you to the inn.....」

「Right? Though I'm not some spectacle, still they keep on coming, seriously irritating. I became an adventurer because I liked the freedom.....but it finally became too much, and I changed my base location」

「Ah, so that's why you came to this city」

「Yeah. There, Dark Elves were rare, so people easily spotted me, calling out to me aiming for my body or my abilities. In fact, there were friends who left me because of that. Ah, geez, I finally am at ease after coming to this city」

Sherry-san said such with a sigh, but without any dark feelings, truly a great conversation skill.

So, Sherry-san was a Dark Elf? Her ears were long, so I truly thought that she was a tanned Elf.....so there is race like that too.

Then Sherry-san suddenly came near me,

「Just like I said before, it might be some sort of fate that we met, so if it's fine, how about taking a quest together? Our Ranks are also the same, and since coming to this city I don't have a friend who could go with me on an A Rank quest. So, how about it?」

Ah, I'm happy for this.....but I'm already paired up with Elk.....

I have been doing quests with her up till now, and it's been going great. Never have I thought about her as a burden, so I've got no intention to change this style this late.

In the first place, I'm still a novice as an adventurer, so I need to build up my foundations; that's why recently, I am going to C Rank or D Rank danger areas or dungeons, otherwise taking quests similar to that.

And as for results, Elk is also raising her Rank, so I think it will remain this way for a while; I have even discussed this with Elk.

When I told her, she made a disappointed face,『Well things like that also occur』and came to a clear decision.

I don't know if that is her true intentions or an act to not make me feel guilty, but I've got nothing to reference it to,

「If there is another chance, I will invite you at that time too, so be ready for it」

And as she says that, the topic is closed.

In fact, I don't find Sherry-san to be someone who I hate, and think we would be good together, and also would like to take on quests together with her. If there is a chance and she invites me again, I would proactively think about it at that time.

However, I just can't find a compromising point right now, and there is also the mission by Noel-nee-san which I have to go on the day after tomorrow, hence I will be gone for a while.

When I told her, she gave me an unexpected reaction.

Apparently Sherry-san also has taken a request of a long-term period. She was planning to take me with her had I agreed. Well conversely, isn't

this great?

「Although it is not an A Rank quest, it would've been good chance for sightseeing and allow the friendship to deepened, but.....I am truly unfortunate」

「Hmm, so there was a quest like that? Offered by the Guild of this city? I never noticed that quest.....」

「Well, it's a quest which increased in demand recently for more adventurers. Even more suitable for a newbie. Many call it, what was it.....a limited-time offer quest? Well something like that」

「A Limited-time offer quest?」

「Yeah. It's the escort quest to.....『Flower Valley』」

.....Eh?



Incidentally, when I returned after buying side dishes as I had promised in morning,

Elk's face grimaced seconds after I entered the room.....even before I got any chance to tell her about what happened today.

She frowned hard, and walked briskly towards me.....and for some reason she started sniffing my body. Eh, what the hell!?

「.....Minato, where did you go?」

「Eh, where.....I just went to my sister's association for taking my stuff」

「Just there?Somehow you smell strange.....」

「EH !?」

Holy moly, are you frigging serious!?

I showed an obvious discomposure, but calming myself I tried to confirm my body odor. Of course without moving my head.....but with

just enhancing olfactory sense.

But.....strange, I don't smell weird anywhere? Let alone perfume, I don't even have any body odor, even with this enhanced olfactory sense.

Or rather Sherry-san didn't wear any perfume, neither did she come really close to me so that her scent would stick to me.

Yet.....

「.....You still smell weird. It's really indistinct.....a scent with a presence that is gentle yet sharp. What is this!?!」

No, what the hell are you saying?

Different sorts of expressions that I've never heard before keep on coming out, it's almost strange like trying to speak to a wine sommelier.....

While I'm thinking that, Elk grabbed my shoulders with power that I've never felt before and she pulls me towards herself.

「Tell me the truth Minato. Where did you go? Did you only go to the association? Did you go somewhere before or after?」

「N-No, of course nowhere else, what you are thinking right now.....」

「Where did you go? Don't tell me, you wanted to let me rest today while you go to red-light district and make do with some prostitute?」

「N-No I didn't do anything like that!」

「Then what is this scent.....in fact, can this be called as scent? Anyway what is this!? Just what happened since you left here till now!?!」

「Err.....I myself want to know about it, but I didn't do anything that would make me guilty.....well, if you ask me what happened when I left, I cannot say nothing happened.....」

「THEN. FUCKING. SPILL. IT」

「.....Yes」

While being scared of Elk who was oozing with wrath, I persuaded myself saying there was nothing lewd, right, and told her about everything that happened today without concealing anything.

As a result, though the misunderstanding was corrected.....but for some reason Elk's mood was really bad for some time.

..... I wonder why?

Chapter 40 – 『Lion』and『Tiger』

On the appointed day sister's request started and everyone had participated.

I and Elk reached the place we had learnt of beforehand from sister about 10 minutes earlier than meeting time. Though in previous world as Japanese, it's standard for fast mobilization, or rather something like a belief.

However there were other adventurers already, and apparently we both were the last ones. So there are lots of damn diligent people.

The Trader Group is of a large-scale, so the numbers of escorts for it are suitably present, there are about 20 people.

Moreover, the equipments and weapons are also varied. Various sorts of adventurers have gathered here, from ones using dagger to longsword.....there are also people with bow and whip.

Looking at them, there are many variations, and I can see interaction with them in various sorts of situations. Though I don't know if gathering this sort of group was pure coincidence or intentional.

And among them.....there were 2 people I knew.

「Huh? Ain't this Minato-kun and Elk-chan. What, you two also took this quest?」

One was.....Zari wearing light armor and short sword as equipments, and seemed to have noticed us just now. After all his orange hair is somehow or other too impressive, so I immediately recognized it.

So he also took on this request, what a coincidence.

He looks flashy and frivolous as always, but what might he be thinking in his mind, this secret intelligence adventurer.

And the other one.....seemed to have noticed us faster than Zari and came walking near me walking briskly, which I noticed from the

peripheral vision.

.....Should I say as expected, or what.

「Howdy, we meet again『Black Lion』-kun♪」

There stood, Sherry-san, the dark elf in same attire as the other day, while showing a cheerful and friendly smile.

Truly a coincidence, she.....Sherry-san also had taken the quest for『Malras Association's Trader Group Escort』, and will head towards the『Flower Valley』along with us for a whole 2 weeks.

Ah, even Zari.

Indeed.....it is limited-time offer request and can help change the mood for taking mental breaks.



Shortly after the meeting time, we exchanged some words of greeting with the person in charge of this time's Trader Group, after that boarded the carriage for escorts use and departed from the city.

The Trader Group this time moved forward in a single line, among that, at fixed distances the carriages for boarding escorts were dotted in. In those the hired adventurers like us were boarded. It's for promptly dealing with whatever attacks them at any time from any direction.

And while the groups were being decided on, it was decided that coordination would be great if acquaintance and familiar people are near, so I, Elk, Zari and Sherry-san boarded the same carriage.

That Sherry-san, just like what I had thought of her the other day, seemed to not create walls in when talking to anyone, –not like she is defenceless though-I'm a given, she even talked informally to Elk and

Zari.

At this rate, both of them would soon become friendly, especially Zari who strong point is having wide relationship connects due to his occupation (?).

But Elk.....she did talk normally though, for some reason she seemed to be wary of Sherry-san and would sometimes send a not-so-good glare to her. Just why?

Anyhow, it didn't turn into a dangerous gloomy atmosphere, after doing the self-introductions, while talking for killing time; we left the driving to coachman and were enjoying the journey of carriage.

While chatting, various things about Sherry-san was confirmed.

Sherry-san's age was, indeed above me.....she was 20 years old, like a college student.

She had been working as adventurer since she was 17 and reached A Rank in 3 years.

Considering the normal standards this can already be said to be quite fast success pace, especially when she became B ranker in just a year and little, there was uproar in the base point city she was present in at that time.

Well B Rank itself is a rank that requires great talent, so it could only be regarded as natural.

And I don't even have to say, that one year after that, in other words previous year, she reached A Rank and again there was uproar.....this time she got fed-up dealing with the lingering effects of uproar, so she came to City of Volka.

I know, I know it full well.....that damn feeling of irritation when the people just wander here and there around you. After all I also reach A Rank just after 3 months since the debut.

Moreover, the city Sherry-san had chosen as her base point before was quite small compared to Volka, so the appearance of an adventurer with

this much talent was a really great news and relative importance weight was also great.

If it was Volka she would have been recognized as great again, but it wouldn't have become that great of an uproar. And conversely, if I had made my debut in that city and became A ranker within 2 months.....holy shit, I don't wanna think about it.

And another thing was that I surprised to know that Sherry-san too had a『Second Name』just like me or Zari.

Though I say that, apparently she herself didn't know.....rather this name came into light after this man, Zari, displayed his information broking prowess and told us about it.

That is.....『Red Tiger』. She also had various other names just like me, but among them this one was particularly famous, apparently.

It ain't something this『Black Lion』should say, but well this too is one damn funny Chunny name.

Well the naming sense is pretty logical if you think about it. Sherry-san's hair and clothes both are red. Even the light armor she is wearing is red.....or rather crimson.

But.....I've got no idea why she got『Tiger』and from where.

.....But recently, let it be Elk (green) or Suura-san (blue), I've been meeting people who seem to have a sense of unity with their hair color and equipments, is it a coincidence?

Well, leaving that aside,

Sherry-san seemed happy upon knowing our names of lion and tiger, though different, were quite similar.

「But to actually reach A Rank in just 2 months.....I did know you weren't some ordinary person, but to have a career history this great——」

「Huh? Did I not tell you, Sherry-san that day?」

「I heard it, but just you rank, not about your feat of reaching there in just 2 months. Just how did you make your way up?」

「Well in Minato-kun's case.....he was already strong before registering and was blessed with chances to appeal about it frankly. I also don't know the details, though」

Zari said in a humorous manner. This bastard just because it's someone else problem.....

It's not like I fucking wanted to fight an ancient big serpent or a crowd of giant grasshoppers.

And when Zari said『I also don't know』-like my training period, or the place-an inquisitive stare came flying at me, but I just ignored it like totally. I got no intention of telling this guy.

Then, Zari moved his stare to Sherry-san maybe because he sensed my actions.

「But even you, Sherry-san wouldn't be lacking in heroic sagas, right?」

「Is that true?」

「I have heard the latest one was the A Rank demon which appeared abruptly near the city and you killed it alone, right. If I remember correctly.....it was『Hellhound』, right?」

「Ah, that, well it's true.....but it was just a normal dog gone big」

“It is anything great”, Sherry-san said, but looking at her Elk was seemingly fed-up while staring in mute amazement. Even Zari seemed similar, though he was laughing.

From what I heard from Elk, that『Hellhound』, the『Normal dog gone big』according to Sherry-san is a black haired-fox demon with total length crossing 3 meters, and runs around quite nimbly as if it's large body is a lie.

.....If I remember correctly they were also in the『Woodlands of Gradwell』. A giant wolf which could eat a child as whole in just one bite, so, it had that sort of name.

I see, if those actually appear near human habitat, it would be troublesome.

After all being a A Rank monster, albeit the individual differences, a single one of them has fighting strength to mow down a squad of a regular army (or so Elk was saying), well there strength is somewhere near that was something I understood from the experience during the training period.

Most probably, if four or five of them gather up, then a small village or city would be exterminated in the blink of an eye.

Thereupon, Elk who had been hearing till now, sighed with a sense of tiredness.

「.....Well as for me, being in this carriage is more than enough safe, so I'm grateful for that.....」

Looking at us with a gold combo of reproachful gaze and sanpaku eyes, she muttered words with sarcasm.

「1 B ranker and 2 A rankers.....most probably it is more reliable than being escorted by the guards」

Hearing that, the guy showing his embarrassment saying『No~』, Zari is a B ranker, and if I had to say it is a near A rank sort of B, or so I heard just before.

No wonder when in『Crimson Forest』he said he was able to take on two of the exceed hopper.....he can even use magic, truly he is strong.

Then, as if he suddenly remembered, Zari,

「Well though the Trader Group of『Malras』hires good quality escorts every year, but this year they are quite extravagant. As for safety, without any sarcasm, is surely more than enough」

「Is that true?」

「Yeah. Before getting on the carriage I surveyed the people, there were some famous ones, and the total average rank of escort in all can be said to B near C rather than A」

「Is that with us included?」

「Yeah, we three are without a doubt the Top 3. If taking us out.....the

average rank would get low by 1」

「Isn't that just boasting about yourselves.well it's not something an ordinary person like me should say」

Elk is seemingly self-destructive from before. On her head, Alva is tapping his feet as if saying『Cheer up!』.

「Uh-huh, thank you~, Alva is so kind~.....but you would also leave me behind and become strong all of a sudden.....」

However in the end Elk still remains depressed. She's sure a busy girl.

.....At that moment,

SFX: ——BIBIBIBibibibiBIBIBIBI——!

「「「!?」」」

Suddenly an noisy sound resounded in the carriage.....no, crying voice.

Criminal: Alva.

「.....What was that just now?」

「Alva seemed to have find something. What happened Alva?」

Alva, who had been on Elk's head till now, perched on my extended hand.....and like that face another way making『Piillliiii!』sound, I see so that side.

「.....or rather, what was that crying voice from before.....?」

「Ah, sorry. I was free recently so tried to teach it」

It seems to be able to learn simple sounds immediately just like parrot, though, as one would expect it can't speak.

「Don't go teaching weird stuff to him.....」

Having a noisy voice coming from above her like an alarm clock, Elk's mood had worsened.

Recently Alva grew up a lot, but living together for past one month I've come to understand many things.

Maybe because it's an animal, it's got one tremendous crisis management ability. It can sense demons coming immediately from a range where even I cannot sense them at all, even if vision is blocked in a forest, or sniffing scent is difficult to high speed winds.

A little after being born.....right, around the time in『Crimson Forest』the ability it showed a part of has now turned into a sensor for searching enemies within a large area. It even disregards obstacles like walls and others.....maybe he can use this sort of magic because of inherent comprehension.

.....And the result before was me teaching it『Warning sound of an alarm clock』as a bad joke to kill time.

Well, I will apologize Elk later, for the time being I got out of the carriage, and looked in the direction was pointing towards.....

.....Though it can't be seen with eyes, but there is an『smell』.

It's the smell of blood and iron rust. And then smell of sweat and body odor of people. This isn't a demon. This is most probably.....

「Elk, looks like it is bandits?」

「「「Bandits?」」」

Immediately after.....I felt the air inside the carriage become tensed.

「Minato, how many are there?」

「They are still far, so I don't know exactly.....but there seem many of them. They are stationed upwind, their ambush is all revealed from the smell of blood, so they don't seem to have good intentions」

「.....Upfront is, a hilly area with long grass growing. That terrain is ideal for surprise attacks, so they might be thinking of attacking us there」

Zari said. I see.

「But, it's nothing to be scared of if we know about that from earlier. If we know they are hiding then we can create countermeasures for it」

「You're right.....I will tell the people in other carriages just in case」

Saying that Elk came down from the carriage, and ran off to inform other people.

The members left.....promptly armed their equipments and prepared for counter attack.

While preparing, I decided the plans easily.

The vanguards are me and Sherry-san. The work is simple, take on other people and just beat the hell out of them.

I will leave the ones who get past us to the escorts near the carriages like Zari, Elk and others.

I know Zari is quite strong since the fight against those『Exceed Hoppers』, and the current Elk can safely parry against stuff like bandits.

.....Her growth speed is really too good compared to me.

Ah, speaking of growth, there is also Alva. It being itself, is showing tremendous growths, I don't need to worry about it too.It's truly amazing.

And, though I know her, Sherry-san's rank, but her ability is still of unknown variable.....

She's waiting quietly for the fight with her hand on the hilt of her sword while her shined with ferocity.

.....Or maybe it's my imagination.



And, we approach the problematic hilly area, and the grass in

surroundings grow taller.

.....I see, just as Zari said, they're hiding in the grasses. If I was just looking here normally, indeed, I wouldn't have noticed them in these overgrown grasses which have enough density to completely hide a person's figure.

Of course I can clearly see them with my eyes, and even before that I can sense their exact locations due to scent. From the time point we noticed this, their surprise attack would no more have any surprise element in it. Elk, Zari and Sheery-san have got their weapons in hand and are in battle posture already.

Not knowing any of that stuff, the bandits might be underestimating us. It's a work of a totally dumb fool idiot to wait till being attacked.....so we decided to attack preemptively.

「Like that, Alva」

Piiiiiiiiiii!

「Burn 'em down!」

「Stop it!」

.....Sorry.

It's all grass as far as eyes can see, so it would be scary if fire spread too much, hence I stopped.

Maybe it also understood the roar of Elk, Alva flew from my shoulder and donned a pale blue magical energy around its body. Ice magical energy it is.

Then, various clumps of ice about the size of a clenched fist are created.....and a second later all are shot towards the grasses at super high speed.

「Moda Fucka!?!」

「Shit it hurts!?!」

「Wtf!? Ice!?!」

Apparently all the ice bullets hit the target. Great. The bandits hiding in the grasses, most probably all, showed themselves after suffering pain from being hit by a lump of ice.

And not letting this gap they're showing upon getting hurt let away, everyone moved on. As if to say offense is the best defense, all the adventurers and guards move in before letting bandits gather themselves up.

I also don't think that is wrong, rather I even wanted to cut right through the vanguard and kick all their asses of.....the moment I tried to do,

From the peripheral vision of mine, who was running in front..... something red went past by at the speed of an arrow.

Oh? The moment I thought that, 2 bandits who gathered themselves up were immediately cut down by a brandishing sword. Most probably, because it was too fast, they didn't even know what occurred.

And there, Sherry-san who just now shook her sword.....and didn't get even a single drop of blood on her –her clothes are red so it's hard to tell-stood.

But, with her stance, she didn't wait any longer and moved more steps forward to assault the other bandits who are shaken seeing their two comrades go down instantly.

The bandit in front of her tried to take up the weapon in panic.....but he had his head and torso already separated, torso cut up diagonally with his stomach torn into pieces, he met his end without even having to react much.

It all happened in just some seconds. In just that much of time, Sherry-san killed lots of bandits.....and this time she took stance right in her place, making bandits shake in fear.

.....A part of allies are also getting scared though.

Then that Sherry-san,

「.....Oh, you don't wanna come? Then.....wait for me」

Though for a moment, I surely saw it, her shining her eyes.....while smiling.

And the next moment, she kicked the ground with force, and started killing all the bandits overawed by her intimidation, with just a single-strike single-kill.

And looking at her figure –of course while fighting myself-, that feeling I somehow knew from when inside the carriage, I finally understood that reason why she was smiling and her eyes shining.

I have seen those eyes many times. In older day, when I was taken by mom for bandit subjugation, I've met other bandits with similar eyes.

They are dangerous, self-centered, sometimes really arrogant, and manly.....however personally the people with those type of damn eyes are the people I fucking hate with PASSION! The light I saw in those eyes..... was currently shining in Sherry-san's eyes.

Maybe this was reason, often I felt concerned by her stare whenever she saw me, since I first met her.....

I see, Sherry-san is.....

(Battle maniac, eh.....?)

Battle Maniac.

People who find pleasure in fighting, are truly elated when fight with blades against blades with their lives on line, common people call this commendable hobby as that. An quasi-synonym would be Battle Junkie.

Normal people would frown hard upon knowing the appearance of enemies, but these people would grab their weapon and go ahead to fight with a smile or while laughing, they think battle as the best sports game out there.

Among them, there are 2 types of Battle Maniac's like one, those who love fighting itself and the other who love to kill the person they fight with.

They are distinguished as those who find bliss when fighting or who find bliss upon cornering the opponent and then sensing the feel of killing the opponent.....

Looks like Sherry-san is the former. Whenever a bandit happens to stop her sword swing even if by coincidence, her corner of mouth curl up. Oh of course, within 0.5 seconds just after that the opponent would have been cut down.

Her severity is something that I can even nod reading her second name as『Red Tiger』. I now understand why and where she got that『Tiger』 from.

From the place she jumped in from, the bandits are all getting killed.

While watching her from my peripheral vision, I take care of bandits coming in my way –there are many who are deliberately coming to me avoiding Sherry-san- with my fist or by my elbow.

There count is neither too less nor too much, but because they are quite separated here and there, so it would be better and fast to put them down with my fists.

While doing that, from Sherry-san's side, I felt stare not that of bandits.....but intentionally ignored it and worked in putting down the bandits while trying my utmost to not look in her direction.

No, look, at that rate it doesn't seem like Sherry-san needs some worry from me, right? (sweat)

However there are also some bandits who try to take a detour and attack the carriages, slipping through the hands of me and Sherry-san and other vanguard adventurers.

Those people, inevitably encounter with other escort adventurers and guards from Malras.....but because the bandits have lost most of moral, and the people Malras chose had been of good quality, that they are able

to completely block them as if not noticing them coming.

Especially, the ones going near the carriage Elk and Zari are stationed at are more pitiable, they both fast, so without getting even a scratch they are insta-killing them bandits.

And more than anything.....it is a good practice for Alva who is also stationed in the same place.

Not only fireball or wind blade, but red, blue, yellow, green etc, other magic are also being fired, which happened to be in different colors. Looks just fantastically beautiful.

Of course there is no moderation, so many bandits die like a splatter, which is more worse than dying at the hands of Sherry-san. The fireballs blast off the aimed place, wind blades cut the human in various horizontal slices.....

It's already an impregnable fort. No it can fly so it will be more like locomotive fort or a fighter aircraft.

In this one month, it has fought various monsters, and would've also looked various sorts of magic, and in that process learned them also..... by just looking.

.....Damn I'm jealous, fucking shit!

While I fight with those feelings filled in my fists –venting out my anger, fucking bring it on!!!!- within some minutes the several tens of bandits were all taken down.

Chapter 41 – Thirst of Tiger [Part 1-2]

We repelled all bandits who attacked us, several hours later.

The day was getting dark, so the Trader Group stopped moving, and set up tents in the wide-open plains.

Naturally, there was no need to keep the carriages in line at this time, so even taking the point of view of the escorts, they tried to settle as many people as possible in a single place.

The tents were put up surrounding those carriages. It was decided that the people would take turns for the night-watch, and pass the whole night like that. It's not like everyone has the night-watch duty for every night, but rather the rotation was set to be once every three days, so it can be said the people have quite a lot of time to spare.

Incidentally, we didn't have the duty of tonight's night-watch, so we slept without problems today.

And if a great danger came near us and if we didn't wake up, it would be damned hell, because Alva would wake everyone up by itself. After all his crisis management ability works all time irrelevant of being awake or sleeping.

Or rather, recently it has been following the early to bed and early to rise routine.

Let it be in an inn or anywhere else, by the time Elk and I sleep it is always sleeping from before, and it would always be awake when we wake from our sleeps.

By the way, when me and Elk『do that sort of thing』it just.....disappears completely somewhere, so I got no idea about that time. It can be said, it is a good bird which can read the mood.

However just how long does it sleep every day? Or does it sleep at all?

Tomorrow it's my turn for sleepless vigil, so I will try to check that up at that time.....as long as I don't forget about it.

That day, from around after putting up the tents, the people who tagged along with Trader Group started making the dinner, but I had heard that they would cook for you if you brought the ingredients.

And so, just like that time in『Crimson Forest』, I would gather the ingredients via local procurement, or so had I thought but there were no demons suitable for that, so it went as a failure today.

I thought of paying attention to that in morning, and even go for a lookout in the surroundings. It's only natural to eat until the stomach's full after working hard.

I took my portion of this meal made in haste –it was a soup of vegetables, jerky and bread-and talked with my friends like Elk, Zari and Sherry-san while eating.

The feeling was like of an excursion or school trip, but well isn't it fine to just steel myself at the important points, so I relaxed and enjoyed sitting together.

After some while, some adventurer opened up a bottle of alcohol, with that as beginning other people are threw their reserved attitudes down the drain and became less formal.

Among them there were some who got drunk and tried woo female adventurers and women traders from the Trader Group, they even came to Elk and Sherry-san, but all of their ships sank.

Elk and Sherry-san had been near me since start.....or rather they were sitting on my both sides, so every time they brushed aside others, their glare of jealousy would only concentrate on me.

Then they offered us alcohol as service to make us drunk and do whatever they wanted, however after some minutes, they hoped to get a service of just running away from us.

But, it is only natural that nothing goes greatly in this world.

It would be rude for refusing them, so partook their offer and chug the alcohol down as if no tomorrow, and Elk and Zari drank moderately, so they didn't faint from drunkenness.....

I am quite strong against alcohol, but the alcohol, the people who wanted to drag the drunken-me away from two beautie, brought, was completely chugged down by me. I think this is already the fourth bottle that I have opened.....neither do I get drunk nor feel unpleasant, but the taste of this is truly bad so I want to stop it already.

And the left Sherry-san, apparently also was strong against liquor, moreover she loved it unlike me.

And so, she's is drinking all the liquor handed to her in high spirits and her mood seems to get better, more or less she seems drunk but it's not like her judgment power has gone. She has precisely slapped down the hands trying to touch her.

In the end, after a hour and half since the start, the small party on the first day came to an end, and the painful work of those bastards ended up in vain. THE END.



Next morning,

I woke up early because I wasn't used to this sort of environment. I was inside the tent supplied by the Trader Group.

I get out of this highly-efficient-comfortable-for-sleeping sort of sleeping bag, which I purchased from sister and look around the surroundings, there was still Elk sleeping besides, so I get out of sleeping bag quietly as I could.

On the other side was a perch which can be made compact upon dissembling, on which Alva was sitting on. As usual, it was awake.

While thanking Alva for understanding my intentions and keeping quiet, I got out of the tent to wash my face, as there was not much I could while remaining in the tent.

It has gotten somewhat bright now, judging from time it would be somewhere around 4 o'clock.

Just in case I nod as morning greeting to people sitting besides the bonfire for doing sleepless vigil work.

I hold my hands out, making a diamond shape with my thumb and index finger of both hands, towards the top of tub borrowed from Trader Group. Then I used all the moisture present in the air to make water, and accumulated enough quantity to wash my face. The moisture sucked in from the top of diamond shape agglomerate inside it and is shot as liquid water from the below of diamond shape.

While I am washing my face from that water.....the clothed entrance of the tent in front of me opens and a Sherry-san who seems to have just woken up comes out. Ah, did I wake her?

「Good morning, did I wake you up?」

「It's fine, I wake up around this always. You too are quite early in mornings」

「Well my parent instilled early to sleep early to rise routine into me」

Though she has just woken up yet she, who came out with her sword hanging from her waist, stretched her body and combed her hair with hands, and pretty much arranged her appearance.

But, apparently Sherry-san went in the sleeping bag without changing her clothes yesterday, after getting drunk, and so her clothes are wrinkled at several places. Though, she seems not at all concerned by that.

Well, the clothes of adventurers are made by taking in heed that they might not be washed for many days, there are clothes which are hard to get dirty and clothes in which the wrinkles get cured quickly.

.....It's good and all being sturdy clothes, but with a cloth having this much exposure and moreover for females, just what does she do about the armor.....I thought.

Then, after completing the calisthenics (?) Sherry-san, as if remembered suddenly, came to my side and hit my shoulder saying "Hey hey". What?

「Judging from the fight I saw yesterday, your, Minato-kun's martial arts

is self-learned, right?」

「Ah, so you truly can understand that after just looking at it」

「Well yeah. It's not like that I was made to learn martial arts since I was five just a joke」

Sherr-san said while grinning. Truly she hit the right parts.

Within just 1 fight of yesterday –she watched me sometimes while in between her severe fights-she understood that my close combat techniques are self-learned, are an imitation made by referencing someone else's movement and the movement which became the origin of it aren't suited for battles.

She's truly sharp. Though the close combat techniques are what I learnt from mom, but I was basically more of a self-training person, so other than being taught about the fundamental bodybuilding and efficient movements, I learnt all by myself.

The teaching materials too, other than the movements taught by mom, are all referenced on the transforming heroes who appeared on the telly, well their movement are completely different from real martial arts.

After that in my own way, I chipped off the useless movements, joined them all and trained, then use my tempered body's basic spec for removing the gaps in them and that's how I use it in real battles.

If others found out that I became strong with this, well, frankly said half-hearted process, then people who love the true martial arts would truly yell at me『You tryin' to underestimate martial arts!』, but it's all good if I am able to fight like this in battles, and like that I am persuading myself.

Well no wonder martial arts which treasure kata would be strong, but this is the result of me pursuing the martial art which seemed to be perfectly in coordination with me both physically and mentally.

I think it's better to think more at the time some problem occurs in way.

Like that, my pet theory became the topic of talk, we both talked, both had gaps in our movements, and talking about our training periods we

both had fun, however I.....didn't realize Sherry-san's eyes shining with a dangerous light.

Before I knew it her eyes were already 『shining』or rather『blazing』so intently that some sound effects would eventually occur.....and she was already too close to me now compared to the place she was sitting before.

".....Shit, did I stimulate her that much", by the time I thought that it was already too late.

「Hey, Minato-kun?」

「.....Yes, what happened?」

Sherry-san's face was blushing red, and was revealing a smile that somewhat seemed bewitching.

「Why are turning your face away.....well it's fine. Hey, I got a small proposal, you are free right now, right?」

Saying that, as if not having any intention of letting me go; she grabbed my arm with both her hands. Just like a girl walking around the city holding her boyfriend's arm.

At that moment, two soft things touched my arm and deformed.

「Hey, don't you think it's good to move the body before eating breakfast? The food would seem tastier and your body would move more flexibly, so it is good for the escort work after we depart from here」

「Err, umm, yeah.....if we do some intense exercise then it would give the negative effects, right? It's morning, and we have just woke up」

「If it were normal people. People with bodies at our level wouldn't feel anything like that, right? I don't have any problem with it, and Minato-kun's body is already a tempered one」

"So please?" Sherry-san even winked, her actions eloquently said『You know what I mean to say, right?』.

No, I know, yes is truly because I know that I'm having this problem of doing exercise.....

「Well it's natural that you are perplexed on being suddenly asked this.....but it's quite common in this industry. I think it would be good if you experience it right here and now, it's for you future.....please?」

Saying that her both hands left my arm, –though the two soft things are still touching it- , and she stroked my cheeks.

This invitation by this bewitching Sherry-san is something that 9 out of 10 people would truly nod yes though while hesitating.

As to why I am nodding yes to this sort of attack is because.....

That is because the other hand of Sherry-san is trying to reach out to the sword hanging from her waist.....as if wanting to say『I want to take it out!』.

.....I had forgotten due to the sleepy head of mine and the fresh feeling of morning.

That.....this person happens to be a Battle Maniac.

That is to say, the next words coming out of her mouth would be.....

「Hey? How about before the breakfast.....we spar for a bit?」

Klang By the time the sword made a sword of coming out of sheath, finally the sun came out.

Frankly speaking, it's not like I hate her invitation, but I only have a bad premonition and so I hesitate.

I'm doing it every day with Elk, so it's not like I hate sparring.

In fact, that near-true-battle sparring can be said as a part of training. Even when I was with mom in that western house, the sparring near the end was really deadly,

And Sherry-san is an『A』ranker, the only person, among all people present here, with the same rank as me. She is the only person with ability near mine ever since I've left the house, the other people, let it be adventurers or guards were all at most B.

The only person going above that would be Irene-san, but.....in that person's case, she's just too above me to be compared, that sort of feeling I sense from her.

I don't want to say something wrong about Elk, who is always sparring with me, but this is a great chance to gain experience.

Even so the only reason I hesitate from taking her invitation is none other than her being a『Battle Maniac』.

The people loving fighting are, well, types of people who love it more than the other people, aside from that reason, they, not necessarily have much difference with other people『in the middle』of fights.

But, the problem comes in later.....

It might be an image I made on my own after watching too much fantasy stuff in the previous world, but these sort of people, after the fight ends, keep on demanding the same thing over and over again.

If it's once per day, it won't get past the limits of training, but they want it several times per day just to kill time.....

Moreover she's a person I will be together with for 2 weeks, so if she actually challenged me to a spar many times then.....

Though I can't say that for sure, after all I don't know how much of a『Battle Maniac』she is.

And this is just my intuition but maybe she also is thinking that same as me –that it would be a great experience because our ranks are same-.

But well, I concentrate all too much just because Sherry-san might be faking with that thinking, and it's also true that this will be good experience for both of us.

After getting out of the house, the fights where I had some resistance would be『Naga』and『Exceed Hopper』, in that case sparring against an A ranker does seem fascinating.

Moreover, because the opponent is a human, I think I can learn something, surely.

I also feel it would be good if I just refuse her invitations if she kept on challenging me in future to an irritating extent.

While calculating the pros and cons, I think about what to do, well, it will surely turn into a good experience, with that pretext I let out my decision.

「.....Then a simple and light spar」

At this moment, Sherry-san's eyes held a light that.....would even scare a carnivore with the prey in front its eyes.

Yikes, did I just make a damn mistake in choosing options?



Not long after morning sun rose up in sky, though it's still dark and visibility is also not good, in that sort of situation,

We came to an open place somewhat away from the place members from the Trader Group and escorts are sleeping, and here the already regretting me and heavily motivated Sherry-san started our mock battle.

In the surrounding, standing somewhat far to not get dragged into the battle, some adventurers who rose early –of course there is no one who is on sleepless vigil duty-are observing our fight for some reason.

They are all who somehow sniffed something is happening when I was

preparing the metal fake swords for mock battle.

There are also people who came here to just kill time because they woke up too early, and also who came to appraise us both. They have even started betting on who is going to win.....this is just a mock battle for training and not a battle for deciding who wins and who loses.

Well, it's not hindering us so I left them alone doing their antics.

It was just right good for them to be here, so I asked one of those onlookers to give out the signal for the start of battle.

Speaking of conclusions, Sherry-san was truly severe through-and-through.

As soon as the signal for start of battle was given, she rushed forward at me with the speed of an arrow, and without any hesitation, pushed her sword forward aiming at my heart. At that time, though I knew it was a metal fake sword, I got scared.

No, seriously, her high spirits is just too unnatural.

Of course my body is strong enough that if I put power in my pectoral muscles and abdominal muscles nothing would pass into my body, let it be fake sword or a real sword, but still there is a thing called instinct, yeah that is what let me become scared.

As for Sherry-san, I sensed that from the first strike.

And that turned into conviction within the n-th minutes long fight.

At the first attack she might have assumed I would evade, so she started a rapid counter attack by swinging the sword.

After that was a true rush of raging billows.

From above, below, right, left, she just kept on rapidly attacking without

letting me catch my breath.

And each and every of those attacks used not only the arm but also the trunk of body and the movement of lower half of body, they were sword attacks holding enough power and speed, moreover there were no useless movement and the gaps too were none.

If I evade she would promptly connect it to a different attack and pursue me, if I took the blow head-on she would let the sword flow in way to not kill the momentum and again pursues.

Looking from the sidelines, it would either look like a wild fighting or bewitching sword dance, but in truth they are attacks with tremendous precision and level of completion, and that stuff just keep on coming at me at a great speed and high pace.

“So this is a true powerful person who had completed the『basics』, eh”. I was impressed even during the fight.

Due to that, for around 10 seconds, I only evaded or blocked but didn't attack. Maybe because of that, Sherry-san's eyes seemed to be filled with displeasure.

I thought that it would be rude if I didn't take this mock battle seriously, so I clenched my fists, seeing that she showed a smile saying『Yes that's the way!』.

.....It's not like I didn't predict it, but still I've got no damn idea how to react to her actions.

As expected of an A ranker, she was truly strong. Her ability was the best by far against all demons and others whom I've fought after leaving the house.

It was a fight against an opponent with high and fast thinking, the thing which didn't exist against a fight with demons. Moreover the feeling is different from mom's, hence there is a lot I can learn from this.

I also got somewhat happy, though I didn't use『Magic Arts』, but by the end of fight I too was fighting without any restraint. Of course I didn't use my whole arm strength, but still it had quite a lot of speed and power.

It was to the extent that I realized Sherry-san's face becoming too happy, and I was like『Shit, I did it』.

However, if I returned back to the previous power Sherry-san's mood would become bad, so I continued on like this, after all it was still a good battle.

As a result, most probably the limit came.

Sherry-san used the sword to ward off my fist but the sword was not able to bear the power of it and broke into pieces, hence this mock battle came to an end.



While watching the onlookers doing the settlement of betting, we both got rid of sweat and were cooling down.

Maybe because she was able to fight against me and got resistance than what she had expected, Sherry-san showed a truly satisfied smile.

.....When I thought that, her mood changed and she showed a disappointed face as if pondering over something.

「As expected, a normal fake sword is truly bad. It broke with just this little sparring.....I wanted to fight for a little bit longer」

She said. No, you still ain't fucking satisfied, eh!

In fact, we fought for enough time. When we started the fight it was still dark, but now the surroundings are becoming brighter, 30 minutes have

easily passed.

And, though it's a normal cheap sword but it is made from pure and true iron, if that broke after 30 minutes means we fought that harshly, yet you are not satisfied?

Sherry-san, while remembering the fight from before, showed an expression of ecstasy and faced me.....I only feel a bad premonition.

「Hey, how about one more time just now?」

「Rejected」

「Eh, why!? Do you want to fight after the breakfast?」

「No, not that. Didn't we fight because it would be a good experience, the fight even longed for 30 minutes, isn't that enough?」

Sherry-san thinks of fighting as the best sports out there, but the reason I fought was truly because of gaining experience and not for a sports like battle.

And that is something I told her various times before agreeing to the mock battle.

But, as expected, after savoring the taste once, she has completely locked on me as the target.

.....Well, it's not like I didn't expect this, so now is the time for refusing her every time until she gives up.

「And also, you don't have the spare metal fake sword right? Even I don't have it, so we don't have any means of continuing」

「It's this chance, how about with this. This is more sturdy than those metal swords and won't break in between the fights too」

「It's too dangerous! The sword and your thoughts, both!」

This damn dark brown beauty just said those words with a fucking serious face,

No well, I have a body which can block a iron sword even if I'm not serious, but there is obligation for me to go out of my way to accompany her.

Or rather the sword Sherry-san always keeps –The one always hanging from her waist, we weren't going to use it, so left in Alva's care-is not iron, right?

If that is true, then it is more f'ing dangerous. This body of mine.....ain't something that will never be cut at all. Even more if someone with her strength attacks at me, it gets more dangerous.

Sherry-san keeps on persuading me saying『Weren't we holding back before』and『I will just use the back of sword』, however soon she realizes she is not at all persuading me. Just for information, her sword is a double-edged sword, so the back of sword does not exist.

Seeing that she still is not stopping, but even using seductive techniques to persuade me, I ignored and started to leave her.....and finally she grabbed my arm and started to swing on it saying『NO! NO!』, holy shit are you a child now!

「If you want to fight that much, then just exterminate the demons that come attacking while we are on the move」

「Those small fries cannot satisfy me. This area is said to be more dangerous than the surroundings of Volka, but the demons are of at most E or D Rank」

「Then try to hold back your urges」

「Having the best meal in front of me, I possibly cannot bear to wait」

Who the fuck is the meal here! Don't go fucking eating it!!

「And.....」

「And?」

「.....You weren't serious before, right?」

.....

「.....Well I won't refuse that, but aren't you the same?」

She didn't use the magic, which she said she could use and it seemed like she was hiding various trump cards too.....though it's all my intuition.

The moment I pointed that out.....Sherry-san's hand went out for the sword on her waist just for a second. Is her seriousness something related to that not-normal sword? In that case she will not be able to show it out at all.

「That's why! Don't you think it's a waste to not fight against an opponent who is just suitable for you? we might get more serious than before」

「Nope, not at all. Well, it was worthwhile as a training stuff, but that is already over」

「So you actually cast me aside after using all of me.....Sniffle, cold person.....」

「I knew that it would come to this.....for both of us.....」

「But, aren't there things once can't back off on! If you're truly a human with warm-blood flowing inside then you should know, just what sort of feeling I have.....I, seriously.....」

「I had nothing with you since the start.....right? Well then I'm outta here」

「.....I will never give up on you.....never.....!」

「Don't do your 2 people comedy act and come fast here you two idiots.
It's time for breakfast」

Ah, it's Elk.

Chapter 42 – City of Flowers and Mysterious Voice Part 1

On the fifth day since our departure, we reached our destination.....a settlement made in the『Flower Valley』, the city『Minet』a.k.a『City of Flowers』.

I just said that easily, but the past 5 days had been hell for me.

We were attacked by demons and bandits, like on the first day, various times, and I was challenged by Sherry-san for too many times.

This girl with『Time killing = Battle』sort of thinking, ever since the morning of second day, kept on challenging other adventurers and the bodyguards hired by Trader Group. In that time, she also challenged me, but I refused all of it.

Some of the people challenged said OK to her request wanting to touch her by feigning an accident, but those people, never were able to hold more than some seconds since the signal and all went KO.

There were also people who took the sparring as serious matter, but sadly, it turned all the same.

After all, this person doesn't seem to have restraint on her. Maybe because of sparring that one time with me, she would go with against everyone in same high-spirits.....in the end some people appeared who have got a trauma.

Even so Sherry-san loitered here and there challenging others for killing time, eventually the already injured adventurers came to me saying『Please just spar with her』, and I wasn't able to refuse them down.

Just because I was the only person who can hold his own against that person, and our ranks are also the same. Truly give me a break.

Finally, the people from the Trader Group also came asking me to spar with her because her actions seemed to be related to the internal conflicts within the caravan.

It couldn't be helped anymore, so I let her agree with once per day rule. So now I have judge her sword attacks seeming like raging blows, while she enjoyed herself.

In doing so, eventually or rather inevitably, the time I spent with her grew more.....and she was now more frank than the time I saw her for the first time.

Well her looks are that of a beauty, the parts I talk with her are normal and they're normally remind of sister.....but for some reason, always at those time Elk's mood seemed to worsen and she seemed completely unsociable,

Even I ask her what happened, only『Nothing at all』comes back as a reply.

Moreover the reproachful gaze that would come flying at me, felt like they had some serious emotion inside them, unlike before, and it

somewhat had a sense of urgency.

Then the most mysterious one is that after glaring at me her gaze surely, every time goes onto Sherry-san standing beside me, and a little later Sherry-san complacently smiles for some damn reason while alternating her gaze between me and Elk.

They both seemed serious, but didn't tell me anything –One because of bad mood, and the other because of turning away her head with an amusing expression-so the truth is basically still a mystery while we reach our destination.



City『Minet』upon looking is truly a quiet and tranquil place, if one had to say this place is more『Village』rather than a『City』, well I shouldn't brood over small details.

And upon entering the village.....an friendly looking old man, who is apparently the city head personally came to give his greetings, looks like this Trader Group are quite the big shots here.

Like that, he said basic greeting like Welcome, Best Regards for this year too, and after the inspection of our luggage, the whole Trader Group parked in a place prepared from before.

There, we adventurer escorts temporarily broke up.

There are even vigilante corps in the city, and we have cleared the dangerous journey too, hence for 4 weeks, until we start going back to Volka, we are free to move however we want.

Then the city head even said basic greetings to us adventurers.

「You are all adventurer escorts, right, welcome. As you can see this place is dull compared to Volka, but we have first-rate flower dishes and processed goods. Though it might be for a small time, but have fun in『Minet』」

He bowed courteously.

We all heard the place of inn –which is also given by the Association- , we broke up at that place, and everyone went to tread through the city.

As for Zari, it goes without saying, he went ahead to『Explore』the city.

Sherry-san.....as usual asked me if I wanted to go to the『Sports Field』located in the center of city, but as I already know what she is asking for so I refused her, hearing that she replied that she would go around the city for sightseeing.

Along with “If you change your mind, don’t hesitate to tell me”.

Majority of the adventurers too roamed around the city for sightseeing. The minority were those who returned to inn for resting.

And as for me and Elk.....



「A Lily Sandwich, Violet Sandwich, Dandelion Burger, Flower Chicken Meat.....and also this Sasanqua Tea with ice.....」

「Hey wait, can you eat all this?」

While I order a lot of food that even caused the miss of the street stall to draw back, Elk retorted to me. No, well I’m ordering it only because I can eat it.

It’s also lunch time.....and I’m hungry.

Adding up to that is the aroma of tasty foods drifting all over the place.

Me and Elk,as soon as the order for dissolution was given, assaulted to the stalls which were mostly selling『Flower Dish』.

Well, after we saw the products, it were truly flower dishes, or rather, their appearances were.....something that would make one feel someone is playing a prank on them.

A hotdog with a Lily-like flower inserted along with sausage. A sandwich with violet-like flower inserted between. A hamburger holding dandelion-like flower in between, *etc.*

Among all this, the Sasanqua Tea is.....a normal tea in tea cup with a whole flower poking out of it. Although it is simple but is also impactful.

All of these normal foods have various flowers inserted, and people are normally eating these foods seeming like a prank. Despite all that, it is normally tasty.

Alva also seems uninterested. Maybe because it doesn't has any magical energy.

The dishes were done in some time and brought to us.

Elk too her dish in her hand by wrapping a paper around it, but in my case the quantity of food can be just too much. So I took all my food on a paper plate of diameter 30cm, and left the stall. The miss from the shop was seeing at me with complicated eyes while I was leaving from that place. It's fine, don't worry I will eat all of it.

And I carried out my words. I started throwing all the food in my mouth and filling my stomach.

The bread and meat both were good, maybe they used something for adding taste.....And, the flower which was in them, had the juiciness of a vegetable and sweetness of a fruit, that seriously freaked me out. Is this true!?

So this is a flower dish. As expected.....no more than what I had expected, moreover it is tasty.

The dishes above the plate just keep on disappearing very fast, along with the tea.

Around the time Elk finished her food, I was about to finish my own.

「You're fast when eating, as usual.....」

「Hahaha, It's always been like this. Leaving that aside, is there some place to dump the garbage? I want to dump this paper plate as it will be a hindrance when I buy again」

「You still want to eat!？」

Of course. My eat-and-walk trip has only just started.

And, I like this tastiness more than I had expected. It's my precious stay here, then I want to eat all the Flower Dishes.....no, in this occasion I want to dominate all the stalls in this city.

「Geez.....you're like a gourmand. You're too much honest to your

appetite, but keep in moderation, okay? Apparently the food in inn is also『Flower Dishes』, don't blame later if you can't eat because of your stomach is already full」

「Hahaha, it's fine. This much will get digested pretty soon」

In fact, my『Elemental Blood』can even enhance the internal functions of body. Hence, it even enhances my digestive system from the stomach to the intestines, like that the digestion and absorption is completed within some minutes. It's convenient when in a hurry. And in addition, the efficiency of absorption of nutriments is also an improved version if compared to normal ones.

「I see.....Hm?」

At that time,

Elk abruptly stopped.....and surveyed the surroundings.

“What happened”, I asked but she didn't reply and kept on looking around restlessly.

Those movements got me curious, so I also stopped and started looking around restlessly. But, I don't see any unusual thing at all.

「.....Minato, did you hear that?」

「? That, like what?」

「A high-pitched voice.....like that of a child, something like that.....」

.....A child's voice?

No, well there are many children in this city, so of course I can hear them from here and there.....with my enhanced hearing ability.

But there is nothing unusual or anything.....

「No, it wasn't a normal voice, but it was very clear, and resounded too.....it's was a very strange voice. Moreover it seemed like a crying voice.....Minato, didn't you hear it?」

.....? Nope not at all.....

Or rather what do you even mean by clear and resounding?

I look at Alva on my shoulder and it cocks its head in puzzlement as is saying『Don't know』. Apparently Alva also didn't hear it.

「Isn't it.....your imagination?」

「No, I don't think it might be like that.....Ah, hey, I heard it again!」

「Eh!? Right now!?!」

Immediately I strain my ears.....and enhance my『hearing ability』just in case, and tried to search through the surroundings.

I strain my ears to see if I can hear the voice Elk is telling about.

The useless noise are really too much, so it's a trouble to find the target, but because I've gotten somewhat used to this thing, so I persevere and still continue.

.....Or so I had thought.....

「See! Right now too.....I can heard words like『it's not good like this』and『why』, I can hear them. Hey, Minato, Alva too」

「.....」

Ehhhhhhhh.....? No, well, umm.....We both don't hear a thing.

Seeing my somewhat unpleasant face Elk guessed that much, and appealed saying『I can truly hear that』while showing a bewildered expression.

No seriously, it's me who is bewildered.....

Frankly, I don't think it can happen that we both don't hear a thing

while Elk can hear it.

From what I know, Elk hasn't done any training in that area, so her hearing ability should be the same as a normal adventurer. Even in her training with me, I don't train her in that stuff.

On contrast with her, my hearing ability, without any more enhancement, is already several times better than a normal human being.

Alva is also the same. It's common knowledge that Alva's demon sensor is several times superior than humans. In addition, from the experience till now, in many cases.....his danger sensing ability can even surpass mine.

And those us, this time I even enhanced my hearing ability yet wasn't able to hear the voice.....while Elk could?

「.....Are you sure it ain't your imagination?」

「Wh-What!? You doubting me.....Ah, I can't hear it anymore.....」

「.....」

——Piiiiiiiiiiiiiii?

「This wasn't my imagination!? I seriously was able to hear it just before!! Why can I hear it anymore!?!」

No, it's me who damn seriously want to hear it.

After that Elk still persisted, so I tried to search for the owner of the voice, but.....it's not a problem of difficulty when searching for something one has no recognition of.

When I asked Elk『Where』did you hear it from, she only replied that she doesn't know.

In the end, the identity of that mysterious『voice』still didn't get clarified, and like that the day turned into night.

Chapter 42 – City of Flowers and Mysterious Voice Part 2

Night.

The inn prepared by the Association wasn't a high-class one, but still it was quite a comfortable place. It was wide and good place for relaxing.

Above all, the Flower Dish given in the inn, were all tasty.

So we satiated ourselves by eating it, along with the stuff we had ate while walking.

Incidentally, we weren't able to eat together with Zari and Sherry-san. Did they eat outside?

Like that after having fun once, the adventurers got into the mood of『Let's have another party』and left the inn, this time Elk and I didn't go with them and returned to our room.

「Even so how could you eat that much stuff when you were eating just before entering the inn? This is just too much even with stomach enhancement」

While relaxing in the room, Elk came asking that thing to me.

I have already told to Elk that if I wanted then I could digest no matter how much I eat in an instant –although I haven't told her about the details of『Elemental Blood』. But apparently it seems like she is quite bothered by it, hence the great reproachful gaze.

Well it can't be helped after all I alone ordered food that a big group would order for their parties.

Even so it was truly tasty. That Flower Dishes of unknown taste. It could be classified as something like salad, but that taste of a main-dish just entranced me.

Elk ignored my talk saying『Hmmmmmm』and currently.....she was reading『Necronomicon』I lent her, for killing time.

I also read it for killing time, recently I've come to know that this book also have quite simple or basic stuff too –although there are too many pages, so I don't always remember what page has what content written-,

and so currently Elk who is also training in magic has also been reading it.

As a result, coupled with the amount of experience till now, recently Elk has been showing quite striking growth in the Magic Branch.

Using the magical energy efficiently, she used the wind magical energy that she excels at, and enhanced the sharpness of dagger and also her agile movements. Furthermore she is slowly reaching the point of using wind blades rather than throwing knives for long-distance attacks.

This growth pace is quite a thing.

At this pace.....the day I entrust her with some out of my numerous powerful Original Magic, is most probably, not that far in future.

Of course, though I say entrust her with them, I will surely choose the type I want to.....I've got no intention of teaching her magic like『Elemental Blood』or others.

Setting aside the trust and so forth things.....it's just because they are dangerous.

After all they are, for a certain reason, troublesome and also have high degree of difficulty. Even the person who created them, me, had been training with that since when I was five, and started getting it into shape only after reaching ten years old. After that increasing the time for practice, it still took me over ten years to reach the point I am at right now.

Mom also showed interest in that, and started training along the way, but.....because the magic theory and concept were completely different, even that mom of mine had a hard time.

And mom and me used to do severe training from the start, so it was quite a high-pace training too.....even so it took『10 years』.

Well of course I also researched the magic and improved many of them, so it took time. Now that I have completed the theories completely and are all in my brain.....it might be possible to teach it to others in short time.

.....Even so, taking all that in consideration, the current Elk is just doesn't have sufficient ability.

Therefore I am perfectly fine to teach her immediately if based on trust.....however, it will be just bad for her to learn that unless her control on magical energy increases.

Hearing all that.....Elk sighed heavily.

「Well I did knew it.....that good things don't show themselves easily to you. If I could use them, then maybe I could've known the source of that『voice』.....」

Aaah, I see.

That strange『voice』she heard (apparently) in daytime. Elk is still saying that it couldn't be anything like illusion. Her physical condition is not bad enough, neither she lacked sleep enough to actually hear auditory hallucination.

.....Except the days when even I have lack of sleep together with her.

She said that it didn't had any sort of unclear feeling to it. That the feelings in voice were clearly transmitted.

It was so clear that.....it seemed like sometimes talking directly in her head.

.....No, wait a minute. 『Hearing directly in head』doesn't that make it more of a illusion.....no, no, no wait a minute.

(Don't tell me that directly hearing in the head means.....?)

I suddenly remembered that phrase, took the『Nercronomicon』from Elk, and started flipping the pages hurriedly.

Err, if I'm right, I read something like that yesterday.....Found it!

「Isn't it this?『Telepathy』」

「『Telepathy』?」

On the page opened was.....the thing that was famous even in my previous world, however not as magic but as psychic ability, the so-called『Telepathy』.

Literally, this is a way to talk with a person far from you without using voice, but thoughts as intermediary. Although it needs talent for using but it is quite popular magic out there.

Among the magicians present in the military, there are many of them who have learned this for communication purposes.

Reading the theory behind it.....it is quite obvious I can't use it. Damn it.

Setting my rant aside, this magic is exactly like『voice reaching directly in the head』.....and also the source of voice can't be found out, hence it matches Elk's testimony.

But, in that case why did that『Telepathy』reached Elk? Or rather from whom?

In this city, Elk's acquaintances are only me and Zari. In fact, she doesn't have any acquaintance who can use such a technique.

In that case what is the meaning of Elk, who is not even that person's friend, getting that person's telepathic message, when I think that, the answer would be.....

.....That the『Telepathy』message was sent in confusion and

indiscriminately.....is it a rescue signal?

「.....If I'm right, you heard things like『not like this』and so on, right?」

「Yeah that's right.....you want to go?」

「Just in case」

No, I still doubt it, but for the time being we both completed the preparations and left the inn.



“There's no way it would be like that”, thinking stuff like that we both come to the place where Elk heard that『voice』in the daytime.

Just, although we came here, we don't have clue, as of yet, of from where did that『Telepathy』message reached Elk.....

In the daytime too we weren't able to discover the source.....at that time,

As if it waited for this chance, the message came.

「It came!」

「Eh, What?」

「Voice, the voice! I can hear it! Err.....『Is it』, 『elp』.....probably it means『help』I think!」

You serious! Just how good this timing can be!

And that contents of message, truly seem like rescue signal.....

However both me and Alva still can't hear it, even now.Just why? If it is a rescue signal, then it would be heard by everyone in a fixed range for increasing the chances of rescue, isn't that natural? Then why just Elk?

In fact from the appearance of the person『hearing』that, Elk.....it can be guessed that the owner of『voice』is at it wits' end –of course it might just Elk exaggerating-but it can't be helped if I can't hear it. If it is like this then it would end up the same way as in daytime.

As long it is『Telepathy』it is sure to be magic.....in that case I just need to trace the origin of magical energy, however, regretfully I can't use that sort of convenient magic.

Thereupon, Elk abruptly,

「Plaza!」

「Eh?」

Shouted. What happened?

「Behind the big tree in the plaza located on the outskirts of the city! It was in broken pieces, but probably it said this. Mianto, let's go!」

Ah, I see. So she heard about the place with『Telepathy』, right. Now this is great. Why was she not able to hear this much in morning? Anyhow..... we now know the place.

As usual, I entrust Elk to guide me while holding a map in her hands. Like that we rushed up to the『Plaza on the outskirts of city』

Along the way, again that『voice』stopped.....the person might be nearing the physical limit, so we hurried up.

However after reaching till here, it was the work of mine and Alva's ears.

Before even reaching the plaza.....I heard painful groaning voice like『Ugh.....』with my enhanced ears. Aiming for the source of that voice we rushed across the plaza.

There a big treed was indeed growing.....

And behind it.....

((.....Child?))

A girl of about elementary school with bright green hair.....was crouching.

Chapter 43 – Dryad and Alraune

We both found out the owner of the『Telepathy』message that reached Elk's ears.

Apparently that couldn't move due to injury, and after getting her strength exhausted, she fainted.

The injury itself wasn't something of a big deal, but staying in such a place in the cold night, furthermore in such light dressing, she surely could catch a cold.

Why was this child able to use『Telepathy』magic, why did it only reach to Elk.....well they were questions I wanted to ask, but for the time being I set them aside, and treated her.

She had scratches here and there and her ankle seems to be slightly sprained, but there is nothing of a big deal. For the time being, I did the first-aid with the ointment and bandage that I took out from my bag, and covered her with my overcoat, for countering the cold.

Nevertheless, this child.....

What is it, I'm feeling something out of place for some time now.....?

Well there's nothing shady about her in particular, but this, how to say, this『different』feeling.....?

While I was thinking all that, there was a sign of movement under the overcoat.

Looking below, her closed eyes.....opened slowly. Looks like her consciousness returned.

「.....Onii-chan, Onee-chan.....who are you.....?」

「Errr, just #1 and #2 passing by.....supposedly」

「Too sloppy.....」

She didn't seem to be completely awake, or rather it feels like she is still in half-asleep state, but suddenly, she looked over her body and seems to

have noticed the difference from before.

She noticed.....the injuries on her skin had been covered by a bandage, smeared with ointment.

Looking closely, her clothing, which seemed like summer clothes with lots of exposure, looked to be made out of plants or whatnot.

It wasn't like her clothes were made by attaching leaves together, but it seemed like the material to make them was that. It doesn't look like the clothes are dyed, and even the texture was near to that of plants.

「.....This, Onii-chan and Onee-chan did this?」

Looking at the bandage covering her arms and legs, the girl's consciousness seemed to have been gradually awakening, while she spoke bit by bit.

「Ah, Yeah, that's right.....does it hurt?」

「No, I'm fine. Thank you」

She said while touching the from above the bandages, probably to confirm the feeling.

This is great. Her injuries were really nothing of a great deal.

It even looks like she could move and talk normally.....

Then, in front of me and Elk making relieved expression, the green girl seemed surprised and looked up to us.

「.....Are Onii-chan and Onee-chan, human?」

「「Eh?」」

Hm? What is with this question?

We both didn't understand the aim of the question, while we both weren't able to reply.....

「.....Are you two, also going to kidnap us?」

.....Hah?

We both were getting more and more troubled in giving out the answer

and right reaction to her abrupt words.....and the next moment,
『『『Flower Fog!!』』』

「「!?」」

Psssh

Suddenly, a yellow fog rose up from all over the place and enshrouded all the places as far as eye can see. Eh, what the hell is this!?

What, suddenly this fog.....even that voice seeming like a skill name..... does this mean it is some sort of magic!? A sneak attack!?

It was a『voice』and not crying voice, that means it might be a human or a demi-human (TL: Ajin!).....then is it the bandits!?

No, wait a sec, this, doesn't seem like fog?

「cough, cough cough.....Wh, What is this.....smoke? flour? I can't see anything.....」

I can't see perfectly, but I could hear the choking sound of Elk from the other side of this smoke. Is she alright?

But this certainly doesn't seem like smoke, but rather flour. What is this thing?

This scent, it's not wheat flour.....it smells of flower.....no, is this pollen!?

『Hurry! Get Lila immediately!』

『B-But we overdid in spreading the pollen! I can't see anything.....』

『Shut up and get to it! If you don't, Lila will be abducted!』

I could hear those voices from the other side, and could also hear some footsteps coming near.

I don't know what it is, but I do know that I can't just stand here dazedly. This fog.....I mean pollen is their smokescreen and they seem to be trying to do something under this cover.

Moreover, both I and Alva didn't notice them until they neared us – at

least until they entered the magic range. I don't know who they are.

But with this pollen mist, my vision is blocked, breathing is difficult and there are limits to grasp the location of opponent with just hearing under this bad situation.

In that case.....alright.

Breathing orderly I clad my right foot in Wind Magical Energy.

I raised the magical energy to a moderate level and around the time the magical energy literally started to turn into wind, I vigorously jumped straight above.

Like that, a horizontal revolution with force. A roundhouse kick in mid-air.

「Haaaah!!」

——*swish*!!

「「「Kyaaaaaaaaa!?!」」」

Along with the kick, a windstorm with me as the centre generated. I blow away the pollen enshrouding the area and clear the vision.

After I did that, I could see Elk, the green girl from before and also..... three other girls of same appearance. I can see them clearly now that the fog is cleared.

And Alva, apparently, flew to high-altitude and evaded the pollen. It is fine.....it's good but, that definitely cheating.

Two of girls had same hair, same clothes, the face.....though is strangely different, but still too much similar.

And the last girl.....had clothes, hair and other things, just too different.

She looked older than the green girls, including the one we found. If the green girls are around 10 years old, then this red haired girl is around 15 years old.

The hair is, how to say.....bright and glossy red, even the clothes are of the same colour.

The materials seem same for all them, but her clothes' design is somewhat different, and it seems more exquisite?

Moreover she is wearing a hair ornament that looks like Japanese morning glory, and a hibiscus. They have scent, so they are real flowers and not artificial ones.

The green-haired girls looked like they were about to blow their fuse while not knowing what happened.....compared to them this girl seemed much more calm and was surveying the surroundings to understand the situation.

When I landed, although she didn't know what happened, but she seemed to have perceived that I did something. And now she was glaring at me.

In that case.....the pollen from before was this girl, or these children's work.

But, why were we suddenly attacked?

I haven't done anything, but they are presently continuously releasing the killing intent.

Then the next moment, she looked at Elk.....who was holding the green haired girl while coughing. She immediately bit her lower lip.

「Aaah.....hey look let's.....」

「You!!『Torrent Cold』!!」

「.....talk it out first, shall we.....」

While I was saying, she seemed to have used some sort of magic. From her hand, some sort of green-coloured wind came at us.

.....But I don't feel any threat mixed in that.....?

For the time being, I stood in front of Elk and that girl to protect them, and took on the wind.

The moment it hit my body, it just felt like having a chill for a second, but.....nothing else happened. Huh, it's over?

Seeing that, the redhead girl's expression changed to that of terror.

「No way.....why is not working!?!」

Despair clung onto her face. Huh, the wind just now, was it truly an attack Considering it as an attack, there was neither any shockwave nor a Wind Blade.....

Then the redhead girl's face grimaced with vexation.

「.....You kidnapper, let Lila go!」

「「Hah?!」」

With she just said?kidnapper?

With this, the two green girls also returned to their senses, and, 「T-That's right, return her!」

「Why are you doing this!? Lila-chan is hating it.....huh, is not hating it?!」
.....??? What is this shit?

How to say it, it feels like there is a terrible misunderstanding between us.....don't tell me.....

At that time,

『『Kyaaaaaaaaa!!』』

「「「!!?!」」」

Two shrill screams resounded from deep in the forest. What is it this time?

「.....!? Don't tell me, there too! What to do.....」

Hearing that voice, the two greenheads clearly panicked, even the redhead seemed fretful while sweat appeared on her forehead.

At that time, the greenhead in Elk's arm, with an taken aback

expression, spoke to us.

In a rapid-speed completely different from before.....and in a tone that easily told that she was in hurry and desperate.

「Please, save them! You two are not bad people, right? Right now some bad people have come in the forest.....and everyone is in danger!」

「.....」

Well, as usual I still don't understand a shit.....

However there's no doubt that this is a situation where I should move immediately.

☆☆☆

And, after coming to look at the origin of voice.....

「Noo! Leave me!」

「Why are you doing this!?!」

「Why, well that's.....you know, right?」

「Yeah, you fetch a high price?」

Yeah, now I see. This is truly great. I understand the situation now.

.....This scene looks like I have seen somewhere.....not that, I seem to remember seeing people with this bad atmosphere before too.

Yes, if I'm not wrong, it was around the time of that outrageous test.

In other words these guys are.....

.....Well, leaving that aside for now,

「Kachaawww!」

stab x2

「「My eyes——!!!?!!」」

The two bad people trying to abduct the two little girls in front of them, suddenly got attacked by the hand scissors I fired with all my might.

The two people, having their vision stolen, writhed their body as if to say, "it hurts like hell".I know it's already too late now that I've moved, but these people are truly gross and a nuisance.

During that time, I pulled over the dazedly looking two little girls and showed them the way to Elk and other girls from before, standing just behind me.

Then, having similar green-haired girls and the redhead in front of them.....they made a surprised, and relaxed expression and ran up to them.

They ran in oh so full speed and jumped in the chest of redhead girl.

The redhead said relieving words like『It's fine now』, and the two started crying *waah-waah* while hugging her. The similar greenheads encircled them.

Apparently they have still not noticed about a girl among them called as Elk, with her hair as green, her clothes (armor) also as green.....and everything else different from other girls.

Well leaving it as like that, I should finish the work of this place.

Looking at them, the kidnappers (probably) finally recovered.

Albeit their eyes are red.

「You damn fuck.....what is your problem!? Why butting in our work!？」

「That's my line. Geez, the air is good, Flower Dishes are good, the city is good.....yet you both are trying to mess with everything starting up a shitty work」

「Get lost you damn snotty brat! Don't fucking stand in our way!!」

Saying that, they took out the sabre hanging on their waist. Oh damn, this pattern again.

Why are the bad people arrogant and so bitchy no matter where. Truly

inartistic.

The two came at me brandishing the sabre while shouting.....

I could feel the gazes of surprise and concern from behind.

Among there.....Elk's gaze wasn't present.

.....I send a fleeting glance behind, and saw that Elk was also staring me along with girls, however.....the contents of her gaze were truly different.

『Finish it off quickly』

Yeah, she is saying she is worrying.

Of course it means she trust me.....oh what is this loneliness.

.....For the time being, let's hear her request.

「Orrrraaa! Die 「Minato: NO I WON'T」! Gobbaaaaa」

「Gugaa!?!」

It's useless to waste time on them.....so I got done with them in the same way as I had with those goblins in the labyrinth quite some time ago.

The way in which I break the weapon and the bones of opponent's neck with just one kick.

Of course, it not good to kick someone to death in front of children, so while breaking the sabre, I retained my power to the level of just giving a cerebral concussion.

Even so I had used enough power to break the weapons swung at me in full strength, hence the two hoodlums went flying.

.....Well they aren't dead.....I think.

I ignored the hoodlums that are now several metres away, and looked over at the girls who seemed to have finished their passionate reunion.....at that time only the redhead, the girl who seemed senior among them all, noticed my gaze.....

.....And shyly nodded.



After all that,

The redhead understood that they had misunderstood everything, and saying『I'm very much sorry!』, she started explaining the circumstances.

The two from before were truly kidnappers, and including them, they all were nearly abducted, but somehow they escaped.

However, during the way they all got scattered, and the one I and Elk saved was one of them.

However, they were attacked and the girl had injuries, so they jumped to wrong conclusions and grouped us as the comrades of those kidnappers.

.....And,

They also told that were all.....not humans.

「『Dryad』.....?」

「Yes.....might you have not heard about it?」

「I have heard about them. If I'm not wrong, they are roughly classified as demons.....ah, sorry, don't take any offence. You are all.....uhh.....those Plant Spirits that live in forests, right?」

「Yes, that is correct, we are all living deep in the forest in our community.....」

Apparently these girls are『Dryad』 an existence that is like personified plant but are not humans. Their bodies and magical energy both are made from plants.

Hearing that, I realized.

That out of place feeling when I met the first girl.

How I had that feeling, that was because of body odour.....their bodily scent.

The body odour of these girls is obviously different from that of humans.

Normally, humans' body odour is made with sweat and sebum as the main materials, but these girls didn't had those smell on their body.

On the contrary, the scent coming out of their bodies is of like new leaves growing thickly in the summer time.....the scent of like fresh water, limpid water. These are extremely forcefully coming out of their bodies.

No matter how you think about it, it was the scent of plants and not animals. I was covered by plants in surroundings, so I wasn't able to correctly discern it.

No well, judging from the scent, at once might make me seem like a pervert, but I'm not one, this is just from the effect of my enhanced nose.

For instance.....the difference is like the scent of boys in the male changing room after P.E, and the scent of spring flowers in a botanical garden.

「.....Isn't the difference too big?」

「No, based on bodily feel it is the truth.....」

「E-Err.....can I continue?」

「Ah, Yeah, Sorry sorry, continue. Err.....」

「Ah, I'm Neil」

The redhead, Neil-chan, again bowed.

Incidentally, this Neil-chan, is not a『Dryad』, apparently.

No, it's not like she is human.....but she is a different kind of spirit.

『Alraune』. A race which was one rank above the Dryads.

They have powerful magical energy compared to Dryads, and also can borrow the power from plants of forests and use variegated magic.

They have high intellect, and are considered to be elder-sister figure of the Dryads.

And, that Neil-chan continued.....

These girls, the『Dryad』and『Alraune』, are races living in this forest since old days.

The Dryads are born from the magical energy residing in plants, and the only 3 Alraune in this forest, guide and coach those Dryads. Like that they had been cohabitating.

The people of『Flower Valley』do know this.....but they don't come in their forest unless for picking up some herb found only here. Like medicinal herb.

These『Dryad』and『Alraune』are believed to be guardian deity of this forest, hence they never do lumbering work in these girls' forest. Neither do they invade here.

And, if they entered the forest, then even if they met these girls by pure coincidence, they would not harm them.

.....There are also people who would take the posture of praying and leave offering for them.

「Well, we live by just eating water and fruits.....so the times they leave offerings like meat or fish, it causes us troubles.....」

Ah, is that so?

These girls were living quietly like that, but today, around afternoon..... they spotted shady men in the forest.

They were different from the people of city that come for picking up herbs.....they were several men wearing dangerous equipments. Neil-

chan and others spotted them.

Then, some of them, noticed the girls, and attacked them.

.....And, we reach the story before.

Two of them were the guys I got done with before, and were now tied up a strong-looking ivy made by Neil=chan's magic.

At the time we finish hearing the situation from Neil-chan, the girl being patted on head by her, Lily-cha, 「Recently, there has only been strange things happening in this forest.....」

「? Strange things?」

Said in a sad voice.

Strange things.....『only been』? What does it mean?

Hearing further, it turns out that Neil-chan and other Dryads.....have felt that recently, the state of forest is different from usual.

The appearance of kidnappers, is a given, luckily no one has been abducted yet.

Demons that never came out in this forest, started appearing, The corpses of demons killed mercilessly by someone were discovered, And the guaranteed『biggest』unusual event, according to Lila-chan is.....

「Couple of days ago. There was a big lizard」

「Lizard?」

「Yeah. A lizard walking on two legs. Its tail was long, and it also had very sharp fangs and claws. I was frozen in place and even though I would be eaten.....but it kept on walking without doing anything」

「I also saw that! I'm sure the corpses of demons is its work!」

「Scary~!」

「.....Or so it is. I, although.....haven't seen it yet.....」

.....Hm.....

A lizard walking on two legs, I see.....is it, after all, a demon?

I asked Elk for any clues.....but to no avail.

The demons appearing here are plant-type, animal-type and insect-type, so she had no idea about this one.

Well, in the animal-type demons there sure is lizard-type demon..... like『Lizard』, but it walks on four legs.....Ah, but, There were『Lizardman』 that came out during the escort of Trader Group. They walked on two legs and fought with swords in hands. Just like a lizard-version of goblin.

.....But they don't appear here.....even the Dryads said it didn't had any equipment or sword.....so it must different demon.

‘Then what is it’.....I was again perplexed.....

.....At that time,

——SFX: *sniff*

「.....!!?」

My nose.....sniffed out a particular『scent』coming from deep in the forest.

Immediately after.....inside my mind, the memory regarding the source of scent flashbaked.....and suddenly cold sweat poured out of my whole body. My body.....stiffened in a second. I got goosebumps.

I didn't care about, Elk and Neil-chan, who got startled after noticing my expression.....and immediately stood up.

「M-Minato? Wai.....Wh-what happened!?!」

「Elk and others too, just become a stone, and don't dare to move. Don't move away from me」

「Eh?」

「Get to it! I don't have time to explain!」

I give out orders in clear, yet not loud voice.

Although Elk seemed to know nothing, but.....looks like she understood the dire situation, and albeit being perplexed abided by my orders. Great.

And I stood in front of the girls, facing the way scent was coming from.

Judging from the scent.....it seems pretty far. The wind was flowing in our direction that I was able to grasp the scent, truly luckily. Probably, the other has not noticed us.....I think.

The scent of demon was different than most of species.....If I had not known about it before, then even with my enhanced olfaction, I won't be able to scent out it.

At most.....I can understand, if it's on the level of horse or dog.

.....But,

I know『that guy's』scent.

I can't forget it, even if I want to.

.....And while thinking that.....I remember the talk Lila-chan was doing before, about that『Lizard walking on two legs』

I see.....even that guy walked on two legs, had long tail, sharp fangs and claws.....and was a lizard.

.....In that case, the unidentified demon appearing in this forest is.....
Hey hey, don't tell me.....!

I drew the worst case scenario in my mind.....and kept on protecting the girls without exterminating the nervousness.

.....Some minutes later.

The source of scent.....as expected didn't notice us.

It slowly walked away.....to a distance that I couldn't smell the scent anymore.

Confirming that, and after some more minutes of vigilance.....I let out the power.

I signed Elk with hand, saying『It's fine now』.....and got rid of vigilance.

At that moment.....because the mental fatigue was occupying more space in my mind, I felt tired.

It is fine.....that we weren't discovered.....

But.....the scent from before, is without a doubt『that guy』..... Don't tell me, it was in this forest.....? In that case.....

「H-Hey Minato」

「Hm.....What?」

I looked at her and saw her looking at me with concerned eyes, well it's normal.

.....Well I should tell.....to her.

The moment I tried to explain to her, who seemed to want to know『about it』, 『『『Waaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh——!!!』』』

.....I heard several hoarse screams from.....the direction of city.

What is it this time!?

Chapter 44 – Turbulent Indications

That night was truly turbulent.

After all, we saved the injured『Dryad』girl, had a misunderstanding with her companions and had to deal with them, after that stopped an abduction attempt,

And immediately later, I sensed『a certain smell』I had sniffed before along with severe killing intent.....but in several seconds it was over,

And immediately after, this time, the city was being noisy with screams and angry bellows.

And, after we reached there thinking what happened.....only to find a scene of carnage unfolded there, although it was mostly over.

The origin place of screams & angry bellows was the plaza near the front entrance of the city.

There were corpses of quite a number of demons.

It was the corpses of demon crowd that, probably, came to attack the city, however were annihilated by the guards or a passing by adventurer.

And in the centre was,

「Huh, you people came late. I have already finished work here」

Sherry-san who just cut down the last demon –a lizard-like gorilla, with scales closely packed on its whole down-with a single sword stroke.



After that, we heard from Sherry-san, about what exactly happened there.

Apparently the raid was truly abrupt.

All of a sudden, war roars of demons was heard from the direction of forest, and couple of minutes later, the demons now lying on the ground as corpses raided in, apparently. They raided with an intense force, coming from the deep forest.

The demons seemed to be in excited state, and maybe came here after rioting in forest, because the time fight started, many of them already had their fangs dyed scarlet.

There was a fear of the guards who went out to patrol became their food, however after confirming it was found out that there were no victims, hence a piece of relief.

The blood sticking on the fangs was believed to be the blood of other demons.

Like that, although there were various points that were bothering, but it was more urgent to intercept the raid, hence the guards, and adventurers and bodyguards in the near area, grouped together and put up a fight.

Among those members, was Sherry-san, an A-ranker with abilities that surely stand out, moreover she attacks the strong opponents proactively, hence including that fact; the incident was finished without much damage. That was what happened before I reached here.

Although there were injured people but all had minor injuries. Those people were currently being treated in the hospital of city, which had opened in the closed hours all due to their virtuous minds.

I see, then it was all fine.....apparently, it didn't end with just that.

Well, if a report saying, demons raided late at night, came in.....anyone would get anxious.....more than that, the reason for this abrupt attack was not known.

If going by the talk of town head, whom we met during day, then this had never happened before.

The demons living in the forest nearby, basically never tried to leave their territories in the forest, and even without attacking the city there was abundant food in the forest, and so never get troubled with that too. Hence the situation of the city being assaulted itself had never happened in past several decades.

And even problematic was the power and type of demons that attacked.

More than half of the demons, who attacked, weren't from the nearby forest.....but were the demons that lived in North from here, a Danger Area with higher difficulty level. These types of demons weren't found in this area.

That area was the place those『Exceed Hoppers』lived, the『Green Canyon』.....after all demons from there moved south, coming till here, and raided in excited state, this caused most of the people feel anxious.

「This had never happened till now, right?」

「Yeah, this is the first. Well, it's not like there aren't demons around this area, but.....they are at the level of, at most『Wolf』or other demons like that. The fence covering the city has a smell, made from flowers, that does not let low-class demons come near, so they don't become a threat to us」

The town head said as such in the plaza that was no guaranteed to be safe.

Heh.....so this city even had something like that, as expected.

「However.....『Wing Boa』,『Lizard Kong』and『Rhinosaurus』.....these demons surely never appear in this area. Just why.....」

Ah, now that you say it, there sure were demons like, a snake with wings, a gorilla with scales all over its body, and a rhinoceros-ish. All were now dead, though.

And from behind Elk told me that they were all equivalent to C Rank.

A level that only skilled adventurers could deal against, that sure could be said as difficult.

Even so both Elk and I seem to get involved into troubles like these every time.

The demons that should be present appear in the place that they shouldn't.....

Just in case I asked the town head if there was some dangerous demon nearby? But he had no clue about it.

I also asked Sherry-san, but as she wasn't even a local person, so of

course she wouldn't know anything about it.

「Hmm well, there were some who resisted a bit.....but you see, recently I've been training with Minato-kun, so that level doesn't satisfy me anymore, you see, right?」

「.....I don't care and know whatever you are talking about」

Our talk ended like that.

Moreover later she even asked『How about right now? 』. Geez, hey you seriously need to read the atmosphere.

While I rejected her with a sigh『no way』, Elk, standing behind me, poked my shoulder repeatedly.

For not interrupting the town head who was planning countermeasures and making deductions about this incident with some influential people of the city, I lowered my voice and,

(What, Elk?)

(Minato, this incident bothers me, but.....let's get out of the village later. A telepathic message came from Neil-chan. She wanted to say something to you)

(I see.....got it. Then later let's give some suitable reason and get out)

After that, town head stopped the argument because he might've judged no answer would come out, and enhanced the defence as a just in case countermeasure, and with that we adventurers broke up with them.

Incidentally,

At that time, Sherry-san asked『Where are you going? 』and seemed to come along with us, but,

I refused saying『I don't want others to come along with me.....』while holding Elk's hand tightly (it won't be a joke if I got lost in this darkness with my bad sense of direction).

『Ah, I see~. Sorry, but yeah I would become the third wheel in that, well have your fun time♪』

Sherry-san ran away saying that to me with a lukewarm stare, later, the red-faced Elk punched me in the gut with her whole might saying『You idiot!!』.....if there was a person who understood the reason for these two acting like this, please tell me!



And like that.....

While getting blows for some unknown reason, I somehow warded off Sherry-san, we both reached the meeting place (that Elk decided using Telepathy), and after coming here.....

「Hey, Minato-kun, Elk-chan, Pardon me for intruding here first」

「U-Um.....this person is.....?」

.....Why is this guy here?

The orange haired-man——Zari, was standing near Neil-chan with vigilance.

「No well, I have a Magic Item that can wiretap Telepathic communication to a level. I used before and heard Elk-chan and that『Alraune』miss talking. Sorry for hearing selfishly and even coming here」

He thought that we would be more vigilant if he reached later, and so

he went on ahead to here, the place Neil-chan and Elk decided.what the fuck does his sorry mean, this bastard.

But, I did think that this had common sense, and Neil-chan wasn't someone who would do anything bad. He surely would have enough natural virtue that Irene-san would believe him for being the bridge between us.

For the time being, I said that I won't tell him anything about Neil-chan, and as for the crime of wiretapping the telepathic talk, I dropped my knuckles on the crown of his head without saying anything else.

I hit him quite a power so he did faint down, and without waiting for his recovery, we continued our talk with Neil-chan.

The kidnappers, who came to abduct the girls, were already gone from the forest, apparently. At least for now, they were gone.

However, the number of people Neil-chan and others spotted weren't just one or two people, so they can't let down their guard, as of yet.

Regarding the demons of north that abruptly raided the city; apparently, they didn't go to forest so all the Dryad's were safe. Good, great.

And, regarding the presence I sensed before, I had no more info that the current one.

Among the Dryad's there were some people who had seen that『green-

coloured big lizard』, however Neil-chan hadn't seen it.

「.....What do you mean that there were humans who tried to abduct those Dryad girls?」

Around the time our talk finished, Zari finally recovered and said that first.

His face had a strange expression, for some reason.

「Indeed. Just in case, we had tied up two of them.....probably they might be Slave Dealers or Kidnappers. I don't want to think much about this though.....」

「Well certainly.....although these girls are small, but they look good.....」

Hearing that, Neil-chan understood the meaning, and her body trembled terribly.

A beat later,

「.....No, that is not possible, I think.....?」

Zari gave an unexpected answer.

? What did he mean by that? Were those people, not Slave Dealers?

I had heard that among Slave Dealers there were some who would make anything their commodity as long it had a human shape; let it be demi-human, fairy or even a demon. That was the reason I thought they would be the same.

Zari said.

「Ah, I see, so you both don't know about it, right. In short sprite-species like『Dryad』and『Alraune』, at least most of them, aren't able to live in the place outside they were born from」

「Eh, is that so?」

「That is so. If I remember correctly then, for the Dryad and Alraune the atmosphere of forest and water are important.....if they went far away from this forest, this valley, for a long time, then probably.....」

「.....That is right. We will die」

Neil-chan said. Is that so?

For example if they were abducted and taken away, to a place far from this forest, the life force of Dryad and Alraune would rapidly decline and

in some days they would die.

That was also the reason they didn't wanted to be abducted, or so she said.

Conversely, if they were in the forest, they would be able to take the blessing of life force and magical energy, and would have an increase in covert ability for not being found out by the peoples. According to her, the forest helped in deleting the presence.

That as the reason, the sprite-species like『Dryad』that die in some days after getting away from their birthplace, were useless existences to the Slave Dealers or kidnappers. After all, by the time they reached the city for selling them, they would either be dead or on their last breaths.

It wasn't like Zari was knowledgeable about sprites; he got hold of this sort of information from his work as information broker, that he possessed them as common sense. I see now.

「Then why were they trying to capture Neil-chan and others?」

「Who knows.....well if screw up those two we captured, won't they spill out the truth?」

「Err, thinking the same, I, after you both went back, tried to question those two, but.....」

「Holy moly! Alraune-chan, you do torture with that cute face? Aren't you quite extreme? 」

「T-That is wrong!! I didn't do anything like that! I just prepared some flowers that have a scent that if sniffed would make a person talkative and honest」

「.....That is already quite like that」

The Neil-chan being teased by Zari had apparently used a natural truth drug. Did this forest have a flower like that? This could be little scary. Although I think it wouldn't work on me.

However, the result wasn't favourable.

Those two, apparently were just some rogues hired, and moved because of money. The identity or the goal of their employer wasn't told to them, supposedly.

In the end, the truth about Dryad Abduction Attempt still remained a mystery.

.....Strange things sure are continuously going on.....

For the time being, even if we talked more, there wouldn't have been any new information, so we returned to the city.

Before going back, we thought of giving the two we tied up to the guard of city, and came to the place the two were tied up.....

.....But the scenery had completely changed.

From what it looked it, it could be easily understood that these two, after returning to sanity from the use of truth drug, cut the ivy using a small knife they hid in the wristband area of their wrists, and planned to run away.

And apparently,

Those two had been killed by someone that came here right after they cut the ivy.

They might've fought, or so it seems like from the weapons they had in their hands (Where the hell were they hiding them).

However, from their body state.....which was torn from limb to limb, and were now not in human shape, but rather a lump of meat, along with traces of cut section which told that these two died without resisting much. Just from looking, it was obvious that the problem was of their ability difference.

After all, although they have died in such a terrible way, but there was no trace of a fight occurring here.

It hadn't changed much from the time I beat these two down.

In other words, without getting chance to fight, they were killed instantly, it meant that.

Elk, took a shock from this terrible scene that would be too shocking for children, and was currently patting the head of Neil-chan, who was hiding behind her back while trembling terribly.

The difference from before would be, their blood had already made a puddle here.....and some footprints that I don't remember, were here. The footprints came out of the forest, and again returned back.

For the time being, I planned to not chase after it. Fighting in dark forest, this is just reckless, nothing else.

As for the two corpses.....it would've been fine even if we let it remain like that as other demons would come and eat them up, however because other Dryad's would get a shock looking at it, so I buried them.



Like that, after finishing the work here, we broke up with Neil-chan along the way and after reaching the city; an unexpected person was waiting for us in front of inn.

It was the person we broke up and let away before, Sherry-san.

Apparently she had been waiting for us.

After running away, she returned to the inn, however didn't find us, so she waited for our return.

When she thought we returned, but Zari was with us, that she was shocked[1].

Immediately after, Elk (with a red face) ran up to her and whispered something in her ear -『No, this wasn't that.....』『.....Ah, is it like that?』-, although I didn't knew the reason for both of their reaction, neither did I knew about the contents she whispered. After that, Sherry-san told us something that attracted our interest.

That there was a person she wanted us to meet.

Because, in fact, Sherry-san also felt strange about tonight's raid, and so she had been inquiring the villagers here and there.

And among them, there was a person who gave out information that caught our eye, although we didn't know if that information had anything to do with the current incident.

While walking towards the place that person was,

「But why wanting us to meet that person?」

「Hmm, I think it is better to hear the story directly from the intelligence source.....to be honest, it was quite a long and complex talk, so I think I would fail to mention many parts」

「No, I don't mean it like that.....what I mean is, why do you want us to hear that talk?」

「Yea, so you meant that? Well, isn't it the more people the better? It's not like I don't know you, I can trust you more or less, and also.....」

Also?

「.....You might've also noticed it right? In that plaza before.....」

.....Ah, that.

I see, so Sherry-san also noticed that.....and called out to me, who might've also noticed it (although I don't know how she made that judgment).

「And also, the demons in that place.....*Mumble mumble*」

「.....Eh, is that true?」

「Yeah.....oh, we reached. This is the place」

Stopping in her tracks the place Sherry-san pointed to was a big house that felt old and was on a street smaller than the main street.

Sherry-san entered while telling in advance『Excuse us for intruding~』. The person who came out on the entrance to greet us was a hunchbacked old woman.

I'm not that tall myself, but the old woman in front of me made me think that even with her back straight she would only reach my chest area.

Her hair blond-ish white, her skin was darkish.

When we entered the house, she greeted us amiably, and even did the self-introductions. According to that self-intro, apparently, she was a『Dwarf』, a race of demi-human with longer lifespan than humans, and was 114 this year, so to speak was something like the Elder of this『Flower City』.

Seeing her smile and speak in a soft and amiable tone『Welcome』, I, instinctively, remembered the old woman, in my previous world. She lived

in the neighbourhood and used to give me lots of snacks.

I was a grandma's child after all. Things like this, after all, make me calm.

After that, it could be said rare in this world, we were taken to a tatami room, where one would sit on the floor (although the floor wasn't exactly tatami), and she gave out zabuton[2] and tea. Yes, now I just feel at ease, for no reason.

「Then granny, can you tell them also the story from earlier?」

「Yes, it's fine. Should I start anew? 」

I was concerned about Elk's scornful stare, but for the time being, I tried listening to the story Sherry-san wanted us to hear. And like that old woman started her story.

The story by the old woman, who knew about the past of『Flower City』 and『Flower Valley』.



Time goes back to approx 90 years ago.

The『Flower City』of that time was located more in the northward.

That place was near the place from where the demons that raided tonight came from, the『Green Canyon』.

Of course it wasn't called『Flower City』at that time.

Because, around the time people lived there, they weren't making a living via『Flower Industry』, but the people of that time lived as『Hunting Tribe』.

They hunted demons, and lived on the demon's meat and edible wild plants collected from the forest.

At the same time, they would burn a part of forest, change it into cultivation ground and grow crops.

I think it was something similar to the『Swidden Agriculture』that was present in my previous world.

And the people of that city, isolated any connections with the outside world, and were living as an isolated tribe, in the severe north, for not getting in contact with other cities or countries.

However at that time, people started appearing who proposed to migrate to south for a more affluent and safe livelihood.

The city of that time was divided into two parts, the『Migration Faction』, and those who held pride in living as a hunting tribe, the『Reside Faction』. The both opposed each other, and the dispute never ended. Sometimes big fights took place, in which various people were injured.

And on a certain autumn day, finally that day came.

Each faction came to conclusion that their way of living and way of thinking were incompatible, and before the winter of that year, the『Migration Faction』separated ways from『Reside Faction』, and migrated from their birthplace, the north, to the south.

To the place the current flower city『Minet』was located.

The people of『Migration Faction』, including the old woman, were able to live a really safe life that couldn't be compared to before.

In that time, they got on good terms with the『Dryad』of the forest.

An unspoken agreement was made that in turn for getting blessing from the girls and the forest they live; the humans would not use their forest for Swidden agriculture.

And, because there was a trade route present connecting other countries and cities. Like that they again started interacting with the

outside that they had isolated in the past and at the same time they started making special products of『flowers』under the name of profit.

After that, they tried to tell the people left behind in『North』about the affluent lives they lived, and hence tried to negotiate with them, however the people of『Reside Faction』were too obstinate that they didn't even lend them ear.

They continued that for several years, but finally the『Migration Faction』also gave up, and cut off any contacts with them.

Because there were neither any special product in the north nor was there any advantage in doing trade in that area.

.....90 from then, we reach to the current point.



I see, so this city had a background like that.

Sherry-san had asked her『Is there someone who resents this village? 』

before hearing the story.

As for why she asked her that.....or rather, had been asking every person of the city,

That was because at the time of raid.....before I reached the plaza.

The fighting Sherry-san had seen several suspicious peoples' shadow in the forest. The shadows seemed to mix with the darkness, and disappeared deep in the forest.

The Dark Elves could see well in the dark, so although she couldn't see their faces, but she could see the people's figure clearly. Hmm, is that so?

And their physique was a large build. That meant those people weren't.....『Dryad』or『Alraune』.

「What, that forest even has an Alraune?」

「Indeed. But, in that case who might those people be. If thinking on the story we just heard then.....the people of『Reside Faction』from 90 years ago, at this late came to south?」

「Well that is true if we assume that the assault by those demons was unnatural. But then, why attack this city? It had been 90 years since the both factions had different opinions, right? It shouldn't be that they come this late to pick up a quarrel for venting out their anger, right.....」

「『We are living hard life in the north, but you people!』Do you mean something like that? Yikes, they sure tiny calibre.....or rather we don't even know if the people of north are even alive now, right」

「Then, maybe they want to chase out the people living in this city and take possession of『Flower Valley』by themselves?」

「Wait everyone just wait. Why is the talk continuing with the assumption of『North』always participating? Like that the outlook on the incident would only become narrow」

Thanks to Zari voicing it out, we three finally『『Ah』』noticed his point.

Well he sure was.....correct. This was also only one of the possibilities without any evidence.

Well, from Sherry-san opinion just now, there sure were chances that the assault was intentional.....so I will place this opinion in a corner of my mind.

But, in that case there would one more problem.

「But look, if this was someone's intentional work.....then those people would've used some way to control the demons and made them attack the city, right?」

「Is there any method for that, information broker?」

「Call me by my name.....well, it's not like there aren't, out there, there are people who do that work」

In this world the ways to『control demons』was largely separated into 3.

1st was to just tame them just like wild animals.

It was to make the demons recognize you as the『master』by using any method, let it be using whip, prey or drugs.

2nd was, an『Ability』like that.

That was something unique and was only usable by people with『talent』specializing in this field of work.

For example the some werocats would be able to affix an emotional bond with some cat-type demons with high intelligence, and based on circumstances, they could enslave it, apparently.

Among them there were also people who were born with this『talent』. Details omitted.

And the third method was to use『Summoned Beast』or『Familiars』.

This was even rarer, and was only known by magic-users who had a definite talent in this field of work. They would make their individual original magic and/or improve the magic formula to completely enslave the demons.

.....Mom used to do this, if I remember correctly.

When I tried to learn more details, she cut me off drastically with『 (Due to talent problems), It is impossible for Minato』. Argh, now that I think about it, it would've been better to have learnt about it even if it was impossible for me.

I didn't know what method those people used, but because 2nd and 3rd methods were very rare.....then were they using 1st method?

If the『North』was the perpetrator, for argument's sake, then those people were originally『Hunter Tribe』.....so it wouldn't be difficult for them to tame demons.

But wouldn't those have a collar or something around their necks.....I had checked that mountain of corpses but I hadn't found out any demon who wore something like that.

Of course, there was also the possibility that they took it off for not leaving evidence.

And it might be late, but does this incident have any relation with the Abduction Attempt on Dryads? They both were strange things and happened at the same time, so I thought they might have some connection.

Anyhow, I didn't have enough information to make out a judgment.....

(For the time being Minato, I don't know if this thing has any connection, but we can't leave Neil-chan and others, right?)

(That's true. Well if it got dangerous I would ask you to give out a telepathic message, and I head to save them)

(So nothing else.....got it, I will tell her)

Elk, who had already mastered the『Telepathy』with the help of Dryad girls in just this short time, sent a telepathic message. Damn it, I'm so envious. You damn fucking talent.

And the person, who might've wiretapped the talk—with the help of a magic item, or rather why is still ON-, looked at me saying with his eyes『I will help if you need it』.Well thank you.

Then the old woman, looking at our looks, seemed to have guessed something, but without pressing questions.....she just heaved a sigh.

「Looks like some bad thing is occurring to the forest, it's so sad.....after all it's a forest that gives us the blessing..... I pray that there are no people in『North』who would do such a thing.....if by any chance.....」

One beat later,

「If by chance.....they enrage the God of Forest, then it won't be good.....」

「God of Forest? Granny does this forest has that? 」

Sherry-san got curious about the old woman's words and returned a question.

「It's a legend.....from the time, when we were still living in『North』.....
If people cross the line and do bad things to the forest, then they would be judged by the anger of God of Forest.....」

「.....If such a guarding deity was present then it would be good, and would also punish the evildoers」

「Hey, you orange boy, don't put it out in words. The wrath of God of Forest is truly terrifying.....in the legend it is said that several hundred years before, a village forgot it's gratitude for forest and did bad things, in the end the village got eradicated and only an empty lot was left.....It was also said to be the only village that was left to be destroyed in the end among the various villages in the『North』of that time.....」

「Eh, did that thing really happen?」

「Or rather, that is already not a guardian deity but a destruction deity, right.....?」

.....What is there something scary too?

Even if a God wasn't there.....I don't think it would be true, but if a demon seeming like an angry destruction god was sleeping in this forest and it was the one who environmentally damaged the forest.....?

Oh geez, I came to this valley as an escort, but again I could feel that something troublesome was starting to occur.....

.....Although I would endure that trouble to some extent

And I pray, just『that guy』would become.....an imagination or just a by-passer and not get involved with me.....

[1] Poor Elk and Sherry.

[2] A cushion giving to when sitting or kneeling on the floor. For more info, Google it, or use your anime memories.

Chapter 45~47 – Red tiger and『north』and the worst demon

This place was.....a hilly area somewhat far from the『Flower City』.

In the cave, that was set up as the entrance in the shade of a rock.

It was dark and air was also bad, however based on appearance alone it wasn't easy to discover it.....and this was a cave with likeable environment to『them』from Hunting Tribe.

There ten-odd men were sitting encircling a dim bonfire and were talking in that place where it was difficult to see after some metres.

「What about those two idiots? Did they die after all? 」

「Who knows. But they haven't returned. It is better to think it like that」

「Tch, this why hired hoodlums are shit.....wouldn't it have been better if we ourselves went? 」

「Don't say it like that, they were quite familiar with the work of kidnapping, it was a great harvest the we got out the wiles from them.....as for the rest, its better to do it by ourselves」

「Yeah, for hunters like us everything is easy as long as we know the know-how. We『North』are.....different from『South』which lives a comfortable and relaxed life」

They were talking while satisfying their hunger by eating jerky. It was just like Minato and others had guessed.....they were the current generation of people from Hunting Tribe, who parted ways with『Migration Faction』in the generation of their grandfathers or great-grandfathers.

They were employers of the two hoodlums Minato beat, but were killed cruelly by some unknown assailant.....these people were who learned the wiles of kidnapping from the two people.

Their goal was the abduction of Dryads.

However, they neither were thinking of selling them, nor making them

into their playthings.

The source of everything was.....the current condition of『North』.

They had been living a stoic lifestyle, like hunting and swidden agriculture (it had different names though), since a long time before, and they were living in that difficult environment while being blessed with prey.

With that much, the people had been living vigorously and resolutely.

However, the answer Mother Nature gave out to them, who had lived a stoic lifestyle for several hundred of years, was something terrific.

The agriculture by burning the land would uselessly diminish the forest and destroy the environment, unless appropriate rotation means weren't taken, this was something Minato, having previous world's memories, knew about. Finally the limit came for the land because they had no such knowledge.

The forest kept on disappearing, land kept on becoming infertile and demons kept on leaving.

All things were serious matters for the hunting tribe people because it was related to their livelihood.....and the negative effect of destruction of nature that had been going on for a long time span finally occurred and broke their livelihood foundation.

Even among that the most severed was the annihilation of forest which blessed them with fruits, mushrooms, and meat of prey *etc.* That had been rapidly increasing in the past ten-odd years.

And recently they finally understood that the reason it was happening wasn't just because of their burning forests. The rapid speed was because of the other reason.

It was.....the existence of『Dryad』.

Although being demons, they were a spirit race, and were called as the incarnation and guardian deity of forest. They were an existence born from the plants and magical energy of forest, but they weren't an

existence that were just born from forest and protected it.

Dryad and Alraune with power of sprites had the ability to purify the magical energy in the atmosphere of forest to benefit the forest. That ability worked even without their awareness, with them being there it would automatically function.

In simple words, the forest Dryads were born had clear and affluent nature and environment.and with the Dryad being there it would become more clean and affluent.

In the forest that once spread all the way to the『Green Canyon』had Dryads living in it, but because they weren't as much in numbers as in South, that the habitants didn't knew about them.

However there.....the humans living in the northern grounds kept on burning down their forest, and the Dryads of『North』understood that this place was now gone. In the past few decades they all moved to『South』, where there were friendlier humans and affluent environment.

Because it was the same as a『forest』, and naturally the southern side was affluent that they were able to migrate without any problems of dying from the lack of life force.

On the other hand, in the northern forest, the birth of Dryad itself stopped.

And finally: ten-odd years ago.

Not even a single Dryad was present in the northern forest. No new ones were even born. With that as the turning point, the forest rapidly started decaying.....nowadays the numbers of prey was only walking on the way of decline.

The wild animal species demons were only increasing that couldn't be eaten even if boiled or grilled.

The people of『Reside Faction』realized that face, but it was already too late!

It was obvious that the damage dealt had reached a point of no return,

and the forest would completely die if they kept on living the same way.

However, even for living after leaving this place was a thorny path for them, because compared to the『South』they had cut off any contact with outside.

Thinking that, a group of people from the nearly dead North colluded and commenced the solution strategy.

That was the abduction of Dryad living in the South.

They were trying to『regenerate the forest』with the power of Dryad they kidnapped from South and thrown in the northern forest.

They were trying to revert it into a forest that would give them blessings like before.

It was a plan relying on the legend that seemed like a fairy-tale, but concerning the results this method was correct.

And they had no other means, so they desperately cling on the straw of hope, and commenced the plan.

「It was having a humans figure? It should be a demon, no problem, hehe, right? 」

「Yeah, just the living place will change to a little north side. We will accomplish this」

「However, there is a problem. I don't know if it has anything to do with the disappearance of the two hoodlums, but.....there is an A-ranker adventurer in『South』as a hired escort. And there is a high possibility of that guy being in contact with the Dryads of South」

「Is that true? 」

「Yeah, I have conjectured his information before, but.....the possibility is really high. In the bad case, he had sniffed out about us and would hinder in the abduction of Dryads」

「Is that authentic? Isn't that information from that bastard of South? 」

「Don't worry, he isn't a guy who doesn't know his situation.....and

there's no profit for him to lie currently」

「But well, that is a problem in itself.....it is a A-Rank Adventurer, a true monster」

「Don't worry about that.....I have thought out a plan for that」

A man among the men said that. Hearing those words, everyone's stares gathered upon him.

「Mwhahaha, An eye for an eye and.....An A-ranker for an A-ranker!」



Few Days from the day of assault.

These couple of days went by peacefully without any incident occurring.

The negotiations of traders from sis' place had been advancing favourably.

Let it be kidnapping, let it be assault by demons, with all these dangerous estimations flying about, I thought that something dangerous would surely happened, but nothing happened.

We didn't let down our guard.....but because we didn't know against what to be vigilant for that we were just having a contact with Neil-chan at periodic intervals while using Elk as intermediary. Elk had now truly completely mastered the『Telepathy』, and could, at will, send transmissions and receive them.

Zari being Zari, continued on his work as an information broker, and apparently was worrying about if there were any strange people.

Basically he was a person who put the saying 'a wise man keeps away from danger' into actual practice, but even that him wasn't as cruel to keep quiet and see little girls being abducted.

Also, Sherry-san also thought that this situation was strange and.....was

on her guard, more or less, but just that much. It seemed like she would be first one to move out if something happened.

Well it was only natural, neither us nor her are police.

Incidentally, we haven't told Sherry-san about.....either Dryad girls or the kidnappers.

No, it wasn't like I doubted her, but I didn't trust her enough to speak about everything completely. In the exchange of information, the discreet caution was needed. Conversely, she also wouldn't have trusted us completely as comrades.

I decided this dealing method along with Elk.

Incidentally if that Zari hadn't wiretapped, or noticed about the existence of Neil-chan and other Dryads (Neil-chan was an Alraune though), then this would've been a secret from him too.

.....Ah also, later on, we had a strange story by the Eldest old woman.

The『Telepathy』used by Dryad and Alraune was a magic from a different system than the telepathy used by common people, apparently. Hence the talk between two Dryads' couldn't be heard by normal people.

The people who could talk with spirit species, even among the demi-humans, were like Elf, or other species that had power near to that of spirits.

As exceptions were, the extremely rare, humans with talent to catch and contact via that telepathy.....so by chance Elk had a talent like that?

Zari had a Magic Item, but Elk didn't have any item like that to use.....I can't think but feel that it was because of her inherent talent.....

Like that, while maintaining the minimum wariness, and with the clever way of enjoying the city we patrolled here and there, like that, we headed to the last day of our stay in this valley.

According to the information from traders, in a couple of days, Trader Groups from other Trading Associations of other cities and villages would

arrive here. And, we, having come here first, would be able to return first and deliver the fresh flowers.

This only meant the difference in the tact of information gather ability and gathering the escorts. Even for the flowers that come out in market during『season』, had dispersion during the time of harvest, so the moment sis got the information of well-selling『flowers』being harvested, she made a Trader Group and sent us out; like that we outwitted the others.

While being impressed by the information gathering ability of sis' association, it felt like this quest would end without any problems other than our over-anxiety.....

.....There was also a time I thought that.

「It's the demooooooooons!, the demons are comiiiiinnnnnggg!!!!」

「Minato!! A transmission came from Neil-chan, it's those kidnappers from before!!」

「Yeah, I had a bad feeling, but if possible, it should've been just one thing out of these two!!」

Today I truly thought that, what if these two incidents were related.

For the time being, I couldn't leave the situation as it was.....so I sent Elk to Dryads, and I went to take on the demons. Although, after quickly getting rid of demons, I intend to quickly meet up with Elk and others.

I sent Alva with Elk.

It, recently, had been able to put up a barrier, so it could fight on both sides of offence and defence.

On my side were demons of level C and B, if I didn't give a damn about the eyes of people then I could've insta-killed them all. Well If Alva were with me then it would've been easier with its extra-long distance attacks.

Hence, thinking about the safety of Elk and the Dryads, I let it go with her.

But in truth, even the current Elk would be fine against bandits as

opponents, I think.

Well, the point of worry.....was that Alva made a mistake and it led to deforestation, just that much.

While thinking that, I reached the entrance of village.....and sure enough the demons from before were attacking, like wolf, ox, winged-snake, scaled-gorilla, and various others.

The majority were E or F Ranked small fries, but among them there were some D and C Ranked demons here and there. If I let others handle it, it would be difficult.

Hence, it would be idiotic to take my time, and after politely shaking off other adventurers and escorts, I got done with strong looking demons within 30 seconds using everything at my disposal, punches, kicks, stick and iron ball.

「H-hey brat! Don't be reckless to take on that many demons alone! 」

「That's right, don't put on airs! We're both adventurers, it's better to fight by cooperat (*crack crack boom*).....Ah.....um.....」

After finishing, I felt other people looking at me as if, I were some adult who rammed in a teenager fighting competition and won decisively and was happy too. Just why look at me like that?

.....Well whatever.

After going out a little bit seriously I finished half of the demons and said to others in a roundabout way: 『I finished about half of them, so leaving the rest to you♪』

It seemed like I was saying a fair reasoning, but it was just me pushing the other work to them, but to make up for that I was boosting up the pride of other adventurers and bodyguards, yeah, something like that.....

It wasn't funny for the seniors that a child like me defeated so many while they didn't do a thing, so after my proposal they all pleasantly agreed to it and started killing the remnants of demons.

The rest were mostly F and E.....as for the some D and C ones left would

be done in by that guy (Zari), without any causalities, right?.

I was thinking that.....but I didn't notice a certain thing.

The person, who was killing in front of everyone in the raid some days before, wasn't present right now.

And that person appeared when.....I almost entered the forest, where Elk and others might be fighting.

「Hey, young man.....how about playing with me?」

Not in her usual battle dress.....but while wearing steel armour covering her upper body, she took out the sword hanging on her waist, just by looking it could be understood that she was in her full armed state. And like that.....Sherry-san stood in front of me, who was trying to enter the forest.



That day,

The plan of『North』was put in practice.

If they let go today, then from tomorrow and after that, new Trader Groups –the people who got information later and would simultaneously enter the Flower City for 『restocking』-, would come, along with strong adventurers.

If they were sensed by anyone of those adventurers and were hindered in their plans, then they would be in more disadvantages. If Compared to now. Hence, their decision was that it was current time best for putting their plan in practice.

And to them.....other than meddling adventurers, one more obstacle existed.

Those were the demons living in the forest.

They were in a coexisting relationship with the Dryad.....no, the forest

itself, and hence wouldn't attack the Dryads. Moreover there even some among them who would attack those that tried to harm the Dryads.

Even without doing that, the people from『North』, were an existence that would normally get attacked by demons. And it wasn't just danger, but it would be problem if other Dryads heard their fighting sounds and escaped.

There the method they chose was.....using a drug made from a certain flower found in northern forest, and temporarily making the demons submissive. In that time they would abduct the Dryads and finish everything before the adventurers in the city knew about it.

However, there was a side effect in that『drug』.

It was a type of incense type odourless colourless drug used by burning. In turn for calming down the demons temporarily.....it would later make them in an extremely agitated state, so they start indiscriminately killing everything in the surroundings.

The assault of the other day and this time was.....because they weren't able to finish the abduction in fixed amount of time that the demons got back their brutal nature in a boosted state.

The blood on the fangs of demons the other day was not of city guards.....but it was of people from『North』, who thought the drug was working perfectly and let down their guard.

And this time, using this method they incorrigibly started their work of kidnapping the Dryads.....and for not having meddling adventurers affecting their tactics, they led the demons to the city and let those adventurer take their time in defending.

.....And there was one more problem.

They had also put their plan in practice to hinder the『A-ranker』who wouldn't be stopped with just demons.

.....They took on the method to make two『A-rankers』fight each others, and not hinder their work.

The result their plan brought was told by the current scene.

「.....I'm the, mastermind?」

「That's right. I have heard from the town head? That night.....when demons attacked the first time, you were meeting with some men in the darkness, right? They were the perpetrator who instigated demons to attack the city.....and you are their co-operator, or so the town head is doubting」

「No, even if you say something crazy to me all of a sudden.....I don't have a memory like that at all」

Minato was trying to enter the forest.

However, he was put in the testimony of falsehood and doubt, and Sherry, standing in front of him, wouldn't allow that.

She seemed to not show any considerable reaction to the words of Minato.

「Isn't it some misjudgement by the town head? I was truly.....no, well I surely didn't participate in defending the city, but I indeed have not met with suspicious men like that」

「Hmm~.....」

Then.....for a short amount of time, Sherry shut her mouth up.

Her facial expression and complexion didn't change a bit. She was just staring at Minato.

As though.....she were waiting to see his reactions for seeing through Minato's lie.

Minato also, in this situation without a reply coming back for several seconds, squint his eyes.

.....And,

There were some people in the forest.....watching them in a way to be discovered by any of the two.

It went without saying that those were the people from『North』.

「.....Hey, how is it, is it going well?」

「Yeah, from the looks of it.....it is going fine for now. The woman seems to completely doubt the guy.....it doesn't feel like it will end so easily」

「I see, then fine.Looks like the town head of『South』did his work properly」

While talking like that, the several men from『North』kept on watching a pair of black and red, boy and girl standing in front of each other.

「Even so, that woman.....sure has a sexy body, right」

「You're right.....there is not even a single one like that in our village. Even I can now understand the reason for starting the work of kidnapping」

「Hey, stop thinking anymore. A-rankers are called monsters. Even if we assaulted her, it would end up us being killed」

「I know. Isn't that the reason we are making two A-rankers fight each other? 」

While they were chatting.....the all noticed the change in the atmosphere between the two people standing.

「.....Is it my imagination?」

「What is?」

After ten-odd seconds of silence, both of them opened their mouths.

「Sherry-san.....you don't seem to stop me because you suspect me and have a chivalrous spirit.....it seems like you found stopping me as an excuse to fight against me and seem quite happy about it」

「.....*chuckle*, you're sharp」

In an instant,

The Sherry-san that seemed like a normal girl before.....now seemed to have a brutal colour on her, maybe because she was emitting her belligerent presence without any stopping, and in her eyes was a fiendish light.

On the contrary the brow of Minato was slightly raised up.

「It isn't like.....you're not suspicious, right? In that case I will『stop you』 before you go inside the forest and call other demons.....it is completely normal thing to do as an adventurer for controlling the causalities, there's nothing strange in that」

「.....Like I said, I don't know anything」

「You want me to believe it? Just impossible, there's no proof or anything」

At a glance, it looked like they were having a question and answer debate.....but the atmosphere around them wasn't something that would be flowing during a『chat』.

After all, no matter how one looked at it.....Sherry seemed to have been『enduring』till now.

「If you don't want to fight, then it's simple. Just go back and participate in the defensive battle. I will also go there. If you don't have a reason for not doing it.....our fight is inevitable」

「.....That is unreasonable. I have some work to do in this forest, though I can't explain in details」

「It's so sad that you wouldn't say a thing. Do you not trust me enough to tell me about the problems.....or do you have some shady business to do in here.....well, whatever. The negotiations.....have failed」

Then,

Swish

Sherry took stance with the sword『in her hand』and an obvious fighting spirit.....as though she had been waiting to say those words since the start.

「If you tru~ly want to go in the forest.....I will only have to hinder you, right? Just as an adventurer, my decision isn't wrong.....」

「.....It's fine now? I don't care anymore, even if you speak out your mind」

「Oh, I see, then, accepting your offer」

One beat later,

「I'm happy.....to finally fight with you in a serious battle, you're the strongest among the ones I have met till now.....!! In truth, I don't care even a bit whether you are a friend or foe.....well then.....shan't we fight with all our strength, for not having any regrets later! 」

Minato heaved a sigh seeing Sherry speak out her『mind』without any hesitation.

And on his face, an displeased, irritated expression appeared.

「.....This is why I hate.....battle maniacs.....!」

He said as though to spit it out.

He let out his unpleasant feelings and glared at Sherry, if people who knew him saw this scene, they surely would be surprised.

And, he guessed that saying anymore wouldn't help a bit that.....
Minato took his stance, putting his two fists in front of his chest.....and kept on glaring at Sherry.

Then,

「Hehe, this.....was unexpected, looks like we get a free side show, right?」

「Yeah.....it isn't seen easily, the battle to death of two monsters!」

While taking on the stares of people from『North』, who were given the job of observers.....the two A-rankers kicked off the ground at the same time and with a *claannnnnggg* ear-splitting metallic sound, they clashed.



At that time,

In the depths of forest.....there was someone that tried to move as if it

was provoked by the noisy sounds coming from here and there in the forest.

The sounds of fighting, bellows of warriors resounded inside and outside of the forest.

The smell of blood came while riding on the winds.

As though it were woken up by those, it secretly raised up its green-coloured big lizard-like body.

And.....maybe because it just woke up, or it was like that from before.....that it started moving in a slow manner, towards the direction he could find prey for satisfying his hunger.

Without anyone knowing, the woken up monster, didn't take much time before.....reaching the battlefield filled with the ulterior motives of adventurers and demons, 『North』and『South』.



「You, bitch.....don't interfere! 」

「Unrelated people should just back off!」

「I will do it, do you slut!」

「Shut up, you scum assholes!!」

creak creak boom!

「「「Aaaaahh!?!」」」

Holding the dagger in one hand, and using the recently improved Taijutsu along with Body Enhancing Magic, she had just recently started to dabble into.....Elk was protecting the Dryads while beating the hunters of『North』.

Especially, she kicked couple of times more to the three men who said quite displeasing lines to her, at least to a woman it wouldn't be good lines.....like that she made them faint.

Moreover,

(.....Their movements are slow.....)

While protecting the Dryads and taking on several people head on, she still had the composure to judge her abilities.

To this feeling that the three-months-before her wouldn't have even thought about, she felt the fresh novel feeling.

Compared to Minato she had always been sparring against.....their movements were slow, had too many gaps and had too many useless movements. Reading the trajectory of their attacks, and predicting their next attacks were both easy.There was even time when she had enough composure to think that she hadn't thought about the next attack following next attack.

While fighting, she remembered Minato always speaking that『The current Elk has the ability of a C-Ranker precisely』.

Elk had always thought it was just him flattering her, but.....she was shocked at her power to overpower these men, who were『hunters』.

However, her shock didn't remain for long and she didn't show any gaps, while two people from the『North』were watching Elk as though they were seeing an annoying serpent and scorpion.

(.....Minato and others (?) are also fighting right now.....I will make it do somehow solely here!)

「You damn slut.....why are you hindering us!」

「That's right! Outsiders just fuck off! Why are you protecting them from before! They are demons, don't ya know!? Yo don have any obligation to protect it!」

「Even if you ask, why.....」

At the moment.....Elk's expression became strange because the words she was about to say were completely overlapping words that Minato would say.

However in the end,

「.....Well, I got friendly with them, didn't want to let them alone.....just a whim, yeah whim」

She said those words that Minato, once said to her.

「.....!? Don't fuck around! Our future livelihood is at stake!」

Hearing Elk's words one of the man lost his cool and spit out their goal of regenerating the『northern』forest.

“That, don't hinder because we got an important reason for that.”

However naturally the Dryads behind Elk –Alraune wasn't here, she was leading other Dryads for evacuation-raised their objections, as though saying, don't kid around.

「Don't go kidding around! We don't want go to a place like that!」

「It's you misters in wrong for burning the forest!」

「That's right, that's right!」

「Huuh!? you shitty likes of demons shut up forever!」

The hunter shouted with nerves appearing on his face, that was scary. That impact wasn't something normal.....the Dryads faltered screaming『Hiii!』.

「Tch, it won't end like this.....Hey, you go call for backup!」

「Yeah, got it. Damn it, just you wait green bitch! Just as my friends gather here, you will be.....」

「.....Did you just call me by a weird name.....」

She couldn't deny it.....and an example of a『Black Man』flashbacked in her mind, and Elk's warped strangely.

The moment.....she tried to sink the man, who had an angry face, while intercepting his attack.

「W-What is.....Gyaaaaaaaaaa!?!」

「「「!?」」」

Abruptly the scream of the man, who just went to call for backup, resounded.

At the same time *swish* a sound of.....something sharp cutting something, an ominous sound.....reached the ears of everyone present at that place.

(.....What? Demon.....?)

Right after Elk thought that,

The brushwood behind the last man present there shook, and from there that『something』appeared.

The man turned behind, shouted『W-what the fuck you are!』, got scared and tried to cut at it with the sword in his hand.....

The moment he raised his sword, an attack from the『something』came and the man was split in two half, up and down.

「.....Kah.....Ah?」

He wasn't even able to raise death agony.....everything happened so fast that it seemed like he didn't even realize that he was dead.

The Dryads unexpectedly.....were made to watch that scene, and started trembling violently.

As for Elk,

(.....2 legs, big.....lizard.....!?)

She at once spread out her hands to protect the Dryads behind her, and didn't point her dagger towards the.....demon (probably).

However she wasn't able to do anything else.

The creature in front of her.....had little differences from the traits she and Minato had heard from a group of Dryads.....even so her eyes were nailed on the something strange creature.

Her eyes went on the fangs that had killed the hunter in a single attack. Seeing those her body stopped moving from fear.

Like that the glaring competition between Elk protecting the Dryads,

and that『something』continued for a total of.....some seconds.

Like that the『something』suddenly turned to a different direction, as though it lost interest in Elk.....and like that it went away, without turning back.

It didn't even take couple of seconds before it went away from her eyesight.

「.....I, was, saved.....?」

It was even couple of seconds later that Elk.....squeezed out those words from her throat while losing all her power.



At the same time,

In the battlefield here.....a scene on a level incomparable to that of war front with demons and hunters fighting was unfolded, while the hunters of『North』were watching that from the other side of the bushes covering the area.

「Haaaaaaaahhhhh!!」

Along with a war cry, Sherry charged at the speed of an arrow, and swung downward her sword from above her head.

Minato warded off it with his gauntlets, and tending to counter it let out a left straight punch.

Sherry twisted her body at once, but the attack grazed by the tip of her shoulder, and the armour she was wearing made a not-good dull sound. She perceived that the hit-part had been indented.

She should've evaded the attack with her rotating, but this power. If she had took it head, god knows what would've happened, even spectators could easily understand that.

However, Sherry wasn't scared in the least.....rather she go more happy

and swung her sideways.

Moreover that sword.....at one moment it seemed to be clad in red magical energy, the next moment it was clad in flames burning crazily. That sort of sword attack was deployed along with severe heat.

Minato was surely shocked at that fact, but with light and nimble movements he jumped back and evaded the attack, however he took the stance with his fists to restrain pursuing after the attack.

Sherry who was trying to step forward for another sword attack couldn't find any gaps in Minato, and so stopped in her tracks.

However, the rumblingly burning flames were still coiling around the sword, and her face still had a ferocious smile on her face.

「.....You sure are having a great sword. It's my first time seeing something like that」

「Isn't this great? It my family heirloom since long past. It is said that this was created by the fangs of a demon my ancestor defeated, I think it was『Soleil Tiger』. This is a demonic sword that could be clad in flames with a high temperature that it could easily cut down iron」

「.....I know it's late, but just why did you proposed to have a mock battle with that sword」

Minato gave a fed-up expression upon remembering Sherry, some days ago, demanding a mock battle with the real sword because of a boring reason like『metal fake sword breaks easily』.

However, there was timid expression on Sherry.

「But you see, even I am shocked. I've never seen an protector that wouldn't deform or even have a scratch after taking this sword head on. What are those gauntlets and shin-guards made out of?」

「It is called as『Joker Metal』.....well, even I don't know the details. No matter how much I overuse it, it wouldn't have any problems, so it helps a lot」

「Heh, I see. *chuckle* looks like the fight will get more and more

enjoyable.....right!」

Immediately after,

Sherry kicked the ground while flaring up the flames even more.

The minute she rushed in the range sphere, the fierce fire blade rushed at him from down, above, right, right and every other place.

It was a rapid attack that couldn't even be seen by a common person, who would probably be burned to crisp just being near the attack.

If the opponent were hunters from『North』they would've been, in one second, torn from limb to limb while being grilled too.

However Minato, either evaded them all or took it on with his gauntlets and shin-guards.

That heat was something one would find difficulty breathing in but it didn't seem the same for him, there was not even a speck of anguish on his face. He was handling the rapid attacks with an expressionless yet bored face.

That appearance of his, made the hunters shudder in fear.

「H-Hey what the hell is this fight.....」

「Aren't they truly fucking monsters.....if we take on even one, it's normal we would die.....」

「So this is.....A Rank.....」

「Hey hey hey hey hey! What happened Black Lion? If you just defend and evade, you won't be able to win against me!?!」

「.....Hah」

「Why are you sighing? So rude, right in the middle of fight! I love strong people, but those who won't concentrate in the fights are ones I hate! If you're a man don't disappoint a girl, right? Concentrate! More! To get a good fight.....!?!」

Sherry said.

Right after evading a large swing attack, Minato's fist cut through air.....

and attacked Sherry's stomach from the middle-lower position.

The perfectness of timing was also a main factor in that perfect punch that any ordinary person wouldn't even see.....but Sherry reacted at the last moment, and forced herself to change the posture, then jumped back.

But, as expected she was too late in evading.

Minato's black fist, as if getting sucked in, attacked the stomach.....part of the armour covering it.....

Along with a *Dong* tremendous sound, it was deformed as if it were a clump of clay.

This was an profound armour that could even stop an attack from a steel sword and arrow completely.

Maybe it passed through the armour and reached her stomach, that Sherry.....and others opened their eyes wide, just to that power behind the fists.

Sherry landed and fell on her knees while coughing violently.

「Kah, ha.....! Th-This was.....above my expectations..... As expected of Black Lion.....」

This scene looked like that just a single attack had changed the situation.

Although she didn't vomit blood, but the surroundings understood that she took no small degree of damage.

「Geez, I knew you have a crazy power, but for it to be to this extent..... From the impact I understand that it would end for me if I took even one head-on.....*sigh*, it made learn a lot」

「.....That was great. Then, let me tell you one more thing」

In the eyes of Minato saying those words casually was the『bored』 expression.

With that expression and attitude it was obvious that he wasn't enjoying the current situation, unlike Sherry.

「You see I'm still a child, and I have my extreme preferences of other people.....and among them, there some people whom I hate a lot, truly hate them」

「Heh, I see.....are they Battle Maniacs?」

「No.....they are people『who love to force sense of values on others』」

Minato said.....and collided his two fists together, making a *cling* sound resound, and looked at Sherry with eyes that seemed even more colder.

「I don't give a shit no matter how others perceive things, or have sense of values and doctrines, unless it cause me harm. But I hate people who keep on pushing that to others without minding any trouble caused to the surroundings.」

Right after adding『Like Battle Maniacs』,

Minato kicked the ground and attacked.

To that force, Sherry blanked out for a second. He aimed at the left shoulder of her armour and punched it.

It was later by the time she even tried to evade, the part that took the impact was crushed into pieces and blew away.

However the attack didn't with just that, the rush seeming similar to Sherry's attack from before attacked her. It was faster than the attack before, along with flexible attacks also assaulting.

She had the choice of evading or handling it well with just sword, however she couldn't do any in time, like that every time the fist was fired the armour would break, indent, and the parts would be blown away.

She blocked some of the attacks with the sword.....but the sword was perfectly fine without even a single nick on the blade.

There wasn't any composure left in Sherry's expression, but.....even so, from the smile on her face, it could surmised that she was enjoying this situation also.

Rather, seeing the offense side of Minato, who had been on the defensive fight since before, her battle maniac blood was stimulated and she even seemed to be happy and elated.

The figure of Sherry, who saw the momentous gap during the rush and escaped, now completely different from some seconds before.

The armour that seemed to scream 'I'm expensive stuff' turned into a tragic stuff, there was not many places that seemed fine. Some places had even burst open.

Her appearance while breathing heavily was already filled with scars all over her body.....in the first place, the difference between the ability between the two was made obvious in the exchange of offense and defence just now.

However from her appearance of taking stance with the sword, the intention of continuing the fight, no, enjoying the fight was easily transmitted to the surroundings.

「Good, you are indeed good.....! Among the people I've met, you are without a doubt the strongest! To the point I can't see my winning! This is.....this is the fight I had always been wanting to do.....!」

「.....It isn't just your armour that is worn out, right? The damage must've passed to the inside too.....if you continue then you will surely die」

「Hahahahah! What are you saying? A fight this enjoyable.....I can't possibly stop it in between, right? Let me ask you, if there was the best dish in front of you, the naked body of a non-resistant girl, would you be able to hold back? As a man」

「.....I do agree that is quite a fascinating opportunity, but because we could endure our desires that reason has its meaning, right. First of all, although I look like this, I'm devoted to just a single girl all the way」

「Oh is that so? Then as a man.....you need to learn being more greedy!」

This fight had reached a point where it wouldn't stop until one died.

The fight between Ecstatic Sword and Displeased Fist, currently again were going to clash against each other.....at that time.

「.....Hm? You who are——Guhahah!?!」

「「「!?!」」」

The hunters of the『North』were observing.....err, sightseeing the fight between the two while surrounding them.

One of them jumped out of the bushes.

No, he was kicked out was a certain person.

And, due to the abrupt incident the hunters were shocked, and while their stares concentrated, the certain person was.....

「Good enough now, both of you Stop! Mission completed, Rescued safely. Now stop with you acting already」

Zari Tranter said, while his orange hair fluttered, just before Minato and Sherry collided.

Then the next moment,

「You're too late Zari! I was already feeling chilly sometimes! Couldn't you have been any faster!?!」

「Eeh, is it done already? Tch, I wanted to fight a bit more」

「See! Because she is like this that it was quite difficult for me!」

「「「.....!?!」」」

The hunters were magnificently confused seeing Minato and Sherry talking in a friendly manner, while the dangerous atmosphere from before went away as if it were a lie.

☆☆☆

Well, in short, it was all an act.

From the time Sherry-san appeared, and from the time that long silence appeared.....it was completely acting start at that point. For the purpose of rescuing the『hostage』.....during the time we deceived those hunters.

In the first place, the biggest out of place feeling was Sherry-san being heavily armed.

Her fighting style was to evade the attacks with her nimble movements and fight. Her normal equipment was also a light armour for not interfering with her movements. It was obvious from her fighting style after the couple of days of working as escorts.

It was quite plainly obvious that she wouldn't be able to fight properly while wearing that heavy-looking armour, that armour was even suiting her in the first place.....at first even I had thought『Eh, costume?』.

When I was thinking that, in my head, came the『telepathic』 transmission from Elk and Sherry-san.....and then I learned about the information of behind the scenes.

The reason it came to light was because, the town head truly said to Sherry-san that『Minato-dono seems suspicious』.

At that time Sherry-san suspected the『town head』.

That was because he had said something crazy.....and also because of an unusual line he said on『that night』.

On the night of the demon raid some days ago,

The town head, during the conversation.....said『Just who』when there was no possibilities of the raid being an unnatural one, at that time. As if he knew that some human was the reason being the assault.

However, there was also a possibility of it just being a figure of speech, therefore, although I also noticed it.....but didn't pursue it any further.

Sherry-san told me that night, that there was another unusual place in town head's words.

That night, the town head said something like this.

「However.....『Wing Boa』,『Lizard Kong』and『Rhinosaurus』.....these demons surely never appear in this area. Just who.....」

The town head only reached the place after the corpses of every demons were tidied up.

Even so, he knew the demons that attacked, even their species, along with the fact that they all came from the『Northern Part』, it was all as though he knew about it from before.

After all he shouldn't have seen the corpses, after we people tidied it up.

The destination the corpses were tidied up was in the completely different direction from town head's place of work. Moreover it was dark in the night. So there was no possibility of seeing that by coincidence en route.

When Sherry-san asked about it in nonchalant manner, the town head stammered a bit and told that it was his subordinated, who came report about the raid of demons told him about their species.

Well certainly, that was also plausible.

But, it was still strange. Rather, with his that statement the fishiness only increased.

After all, among the species of the demon the town head was speaking in a calm manner, the one called『Wing Boa』.....wasn't existing among the horde of demons that raided the city that night.

I asked about it to Sherry-san. The snake with feathers and wings was from a species called as『Feather Snake』.....their behaviour was like that of migratory birds, and were a type of demons which wouldn't live in a fixed area.

Moreover maybe because of their high wariness, the route they crossed was different every year, it was even said that the route they used once would not be used for another couple of decades. Hence, it was an extremely rare demon that most of adventurers had not seen.

Although the『Wing Boa』living in『North』didn't appear in this area, their appearance was quite known via various books and documents.

It was a snake with a part of its body in the shape of wings-spread out. However contrary to its name, the wings were there just for threatening and they weren't able to truly fly. As an image it would be great to think of it as a King Cobra from my previous world, with its base of throat spread out in the shape of wings.

For argument's sake, let's say the subordinate didn't know the name of『Feather Snake』, but he couldn't have mistaken it as『Wing Boa』, now could he?

Although they both were snake-type demons, but they weren't so similar to be mistaken for each other.

In short, the information about the species of demons didn't reach to the town head via his subordinate.

Nevertheless, the town head told the species of most, if not all, of the demons that raided.....and even concluded that they all lived in『more north』than here.

Why was he able to think up to there.

If thinking by combing the figure of speech from before, it was easy to think that he something from before. He knew that if there was an attack『someone』, then『what』would raid in, at least roughly he knew about that.

The suspicions were weak, but they were all without doubt certain doubts.

Sherry-san's doubts only increased because of the added『secret information』, and was secretly asking the people in city all over the place, at that time, she head a certain truth.

The daughter of town head went to rest couple of days after getting infected by an endemic disease.

And from the day of going to rest, she never appeared in front of people.

After asking the person said to be her attending doctor, it came to light that it was all a lie.....and Sherry-san was now even more convinced that,

『Yeah, she is kidnapped』.

The daughter of town head was taken to『North』as an hostage, and was being forced to cooperate in the work these people were trying to do. As a part of that, some false information reached Sherry-san's ears, trying to instigate enmity between us two, at that time, Sherry-san completely noticed.

Sherry-san took everything into heed, told Zari about the information just some time before.....and after a conversation like『Frankly it is too bad a talk, but can't anything be done』『OK! I will look into it』, the next time I saw her was standing in front of me.

At that time, Sherry-san, being a dark Elf, used『Telepathy』and proposed this offer to me.

Or rather both me and Sherry-san already knew that there people hiding in the surroundings, watching us.

They were failures as covert observers. Learn something from Zari.

It might seem like self-boast, but although normal adventurers wouldn't be able to find them.....but to use both, it didn't seem like they were hiding.

Like that I agreed to Sherry-san's offer, left the protection of Dryads to Elk and Zari, along with searching for the hostage, like that I started battle with Sherry-san. To buy time.

Incidentally, the armour of Sherry-san, was a『prop』to increase the impact of battle.....and not let them find out that this was an act.

I could pulverize steel with my bare hands.

Like that, it was an act.....with schemes interweaved.

That's right it was just an act.....it was supposed to be.

Somewhere along the way, that's right, from that point.

From the time Sherry-san clad her sword in flames.....I thought『Huh?』
.....

『Her eyes, were serious at that time』.

And started the fierce attack that would kill anyone, if it weren't me.

In fact, looks like this battle maniac girl acted while enduring a lot.

『Good, you are indeed good.....! Among the people I've met, you are without a doubt the strongest! To the point I can't see my winning! This is.....this is the fight I had always been wanting to do.....!』

『.....It isn't just your armour that is worn out, right? The damage must've passed to the inside too.....if you continue then you will surely die』

『Hahahahah! What are you saying? A fight this enjoyable.....I can't possibly stop it in between, right? Let me ask you, if there was the best dish in front of you, the naked body of a non-resistant girl, would you be able to hold back? As a man』

『.....I do agree that is quite a fascinating opportunity, but because we could endure our desires that reason has its meaning, right. First of all, although I look like this, I'm devoted to just a single girl all the way』

『Oh is that so? Then as a man.....you need to learn being more greedy!』

We were having a crazy conversation in high spirits (of course I just broke the armour and dealt no damage to her), but in truth,

「Wait Sherry-san!? Dan-oi, that's dangerous! Ow, hot!? No, this is an act, this is an act, right!? It seems to become more serious.....hey your eye are serious!？」

『Eh, what? Well whatever, Minato-kun, if you don't want to be injured concentrate on the battle』

『No, calm down you battle maniac! Hasn't this surpassed the level of acting! It burns, you know!? If it wasn't, it wouldn't just end with injury!？」

『Isn't it fine that you are unhurt! This much serious.....no I mean bloodcurdling feeling will make it enjoyable.....no I mean, realistic, right?』

『Wtf you say!? Hey you, you just said『serious』and『enjoyable』right, right!? Or rather, you're killing intent is out, sword speed is already too serious, and it is hot even without burning』

.....Only we both knew about the『Telepathic』transmission going behind the scenes.

And as if trying to support it, Sherry-san's eyes were still sparking.

1. I learnt a good and important thing today. Never to fight with this person, even in an act.

W-Well ignoring that.

The fact Zari had already come here means the hostage are.....

「Yeah, it's all fine, now. I rescued the daughter of town head, and delivered her to him just before. That's why, stop the act, OK?」

「Great, good job Zari. Well it's like Sherry-san」

「It was fine if you have come a little la.....」

「Yes useless talk also STOP! We need to get the sightseeing fees from the audience in the surroundings, right?」

Forcibly cutting the conversation, I glare at bushes, behind which they were hiding.

Geez, these bastards were talking as they wanted, like monsters, best shows and whatnot.

It would help me cool down, let's start another riot!



It was over in several minutes.

All that was left was the heaps of corpses lying around.

There were some who came at me desperately, while some ran away. The ones that came at me showed strong killing intent, so I didn't hold back.

We needed a person for testimony, so I quickly brought down some people that seemed to be leading figures.

They were still alive, more or less.....but because there was no rope for tying them up, I dislocated their both hands and legs, and bone fracture and *mumble mumble*.

The reason I did it『quickly』was because if I left it Sherry-san, they would, without any doubt, die in a second.

Sherry-san normally has leniency against people who come at her with killing intent. She kills them in a single stroke, as if to say an eye for an eye. Because, I knew about that from the bandit subjugation we did while coming here.

But I, particularly, don't have thought to say anything about that.

If other side came to kill one, they should be prepared to be killed. Cruel or going too far, were words that nobody had the right to say, and no one had the reason to tell. If one were to be aimed, then it didn't matter if there was any danger or not based on their abilities, but it was up to the person to do whatever they wanted.

Even I try my upmost to not kill, but if needed I would also kill.

But if one asked what time it was『needed』, then sorry but I don't think I could give out an immediate answer.

Of course, it wouldn't be enough an excuse that they weren't bandits but hunters, I also wouldn't give a shit if they told me they had families in their hometown. I didn't think that as pitiful. So I wouldn't hesitate.

But just because it would've been problematic if people who would give out testimony, died, so I was in a hurry.

Moreover the people who ran away, Zari took care of them. I don't think they were able to run away, but don't the exact details of what happened to them.

And incidentally, after threatening a bit we squeezed information out of them, and apparently the daughter of town head was truly taken as hostage. To support in keeping adventurers at a distance for not hindering in their abduction plan.

At the time threatening, maybe because of terror one spoke out desperately『We can even raise demons, it's fine for us to attack you peace idiot people's village!』

They lined up demons for threatening including the one demon, that is politely known in『South』as.....『Wing Boa』.

And the demons on that night's attack were ones who got agitated because of a side effect of some sedative. The town head must've truly thought that for threatening the people of『North』would send some of their own demons. The coincidences overlapped.

.....Well then,

Now that everything to was over, I ignored the frustrated gazes at me, and dragged them to their companions inside the forest, and arrest all of them, then finish them off. After that, the left demons were also killed, like this case closed.....

『Gaaaaoooooooooooo!!!』

「「.....!?!」」

.....Or so I truly wanted.....

Apparently, it had turned into a situation that wouldn't end like this easily.

I heard something.

From the area where adventurers were fighting against the monsters, an unpleasant growl came.

It just felt like.....one scene of carnage stopped, but now another truly terrifying stuff was waiting for us.....!!

☆☆☆

The guards of village came at the best time, we handed over the several people of『North』for the purpose of testimonies, and both Sherry-san and I dashed in the direction of that growl.

During that time,

「What what!? Minato-kun you're so fast! Hmm, Elk-chan is always going here and there with such a comfortable transport vehicle!? Nooo, so envious!」

「No, the person herself feels bad, even nauseated. Or rather, if you keep on talking, you will bite your tongue, okay?」

I said.

For reducing the time taken, I casted『Another Person Enhancement』on Sherry-san and, just as I had done with Elk, gave her a piggyback ride, then dashed with a speed more than a car, but,

Err.....the two big parts, that were even bigger than Elk's, unintentionally hit my back.....and from the feeling it could understood that they were deforming a lot.

Currently I thought rationally that it would be have been easier to carry her in my arms.

Well, we would reach the destination in less than several minutes, so persevere it endure it.

Moreover.....it was truth that this situation wasn't something I could be so relaxed.

And,

When I reached the place, where adventurers and bodyguards were dealing with demons who had become ferocious due to the side effect of the drug used by people from『North』,

There was big panic there that made me think that the people weren't veteran warriors.

There was a.....big, green-coloured, lizard-like『something』.

Walking heavily on its two legs, it was moving down everyone in its direction of travel and pushed them into their mouths. Its height was more than 10 metres high, and it looked like a lizard, that『something』.

Seeing the scene of grasses being mashed under its legs meant that it probably came out from the forest.

「Something amazing came out, right.....what is that? Lizard? Or a dragon?」

「No, that is probably.....a plant」

Certainly, the scene of that big lizard walked on two legs, dragging a tail (seeming) along with it.....made it look like a theropod dinosaur or maybe a monster from a monster film.

But looking carefully.....although it was hard to see clearly from this far distance, aside from its appearance it was completely a『plant』.

Its hands and legs were clad in roots of trees. The tails was also the similar.

Its mouth (at least it looks like that) also had pointy roots inside in place of fangs. Are they not for biting off, but chewing and absorbing the nutrition? Or rather it seemed like it could absorb from places other than mouth also.

And the green-colour covering its body wasn't scales but leaves. They were closely packed seeming like an armour, giving out a profound pressure. The leaves armour seemed more tough and thick than normal armours.

.....No, in fact I couldn't deny that possibility.

However its movements weren't as dull as they looked like.....the power hidden its every single attack wasn't something sweet thing like『It's fine if it doesn't hit me』.

And its, in the end, a『plant』.....is it truly that? The destruction god that Elder women told us the other day, that guardian deity of the forest? Was it woken up by the barbaric acts of North?

But well it was useless to think about things I can get any certain authenticity for, so I decided not to think.

Incidentally, among the people trying to run to escape were people with different clothing than the people of village. Are they spies of『North』?

Maybe they were attacked that among them were some injured people too.....I felt that it wasn't the time to worry about them, so I left them on their own. It was for making them pay for their mistakes.

Then, in the side of eyesight appeared Elk, Neil-chan, Zari and Alva, perching on Elk's shoulder. They probably just came out of the forest.

Then noticing me and Sherry-san they ran up to us.

After confirming the safety of both sides, we all let out a sigh of relief.

「Minato, you done? 」

「Yeah, it's good that you are fine. Well, I didn't worry about the current Elk, though」

「Haha, you're trusted a lot, Elk-chan. Well then, thank you for providing information Sherry-san, thanks to that I was also able to resolve all the problems」

「You're welcome, information broker. And.....that girl is, the Dryad? No, redhead means, is it Alraune?」

「Y-yes! E-err.....are you a Dark Elf?」

「Nice to meet you. But well this atmosphere doesn't seem good to be doing self-introductions, let's talk with each other later」

Saying that, the conversation closed, and everyone again looked at the plant monster rampaging among the demon horde.

It was surely scary, but they couldn't let it get near the city that the adventurers were using magic and arrows for long-distance attacks.

But.....the effect wasn't favourable.

Numerous arrows and fire magic that worked the best against plants were fired at it, but those scale-like leaves didn't even had a scratch. The leaves were truly tough.

In contrast it made me worry that it would be angry and the attacks only stimulated it. Currently it was rampaging greatly and eating food.

Zari said while seeing that scene.

「I see. That is the『Green Lizard』. Well it certainly is a『Lizard』.....well it certainly is great enough that even Minato-kun was vigilant against it」

「Eh, what, did you two know about it?」

「No, I've only heard about it. Only Minato-kun has seen it in truth. Minato-kun was vigilant against it saying『That is dangerous』, in truth I doubted if there was such a thing.....but now seeing it myself I can agree

to it. Isn't that right, Minato-kun?」

「.....Nope, it's different」

「「「 ? 」」」

I said.

Zari gave a blank expression to the unexpected answer from me. Including Sherry-san and Neil-chan.

But.....unfortunately, that is the truth.

The『Green Lizard』I was talking about.....wasn't this one in front of me.

「Eh? It wasn't that monster? The one Minato-kun was being vigilant of」

Yeah. It was different.

Certainly this one too looks like a『big green lizard』and gives out a dangerous feeling.....but it is not the one I was talking about.

The two hoodlums that died in the forest.

Had a shape.....as though they were sliced from limb from limb in a second by a sharp blade or claws with same sharpness.

This plant monster sure had overwhelming and fierce offensive ability.....but I couldn't see any sharp parts like that.

I would learn if that big body moved in the forest, first of all, moreover after it moved, it would only leave mess in its wake.

Certainly there were traces of rioting currently.....but if that moved, it would even mow down the trees from root and branches and all. Unless it had an ability to change its size and shape to be able to move from the narrow places.

Neil-chan and Zari who had seen the scene, except Sherry-san, made an expression say "I see". For inadvertently sharp Zari to not notice it would be unnatural.

To begin with, if the Dryads witnessed that『lizard』, it would mean that

it had been in this forest for quite some time.

In that case, no matter what, even the city people would notice it. Even the forest would be messed up.

I realized that other than those three, Elk didn't reply saying an『Eh?』.

Well she had seen that scene, so it must be natural to feel anxiety, but.....what happened?

How to say it, her body seemed to have stiffened and her expression was also stiff.....

But it wasn't like she was scared of the monster in front of her.....but it was like she remembered something even more dangerous.

Then,

「Minato, was the guy you were talking about.....a『big green lizard』?」

「? That's right, why?」

「Is its body as big as a human with large build, has long hands, a tail seeming like whip, has a scary face and has its body closely packed with scales?」

.....!?

「Elk, don't tell me.....you saw it!? In the forest!?」

「.....Yeah. While I was fighting with those from『North』, it just barged in. Like that it massacred the hunters.....after I wasn't able to move from fear, it seemed to have lost its interest in me and left」

「.....You serious?」

「Serious」

.....Now that is quite.....

I was careless. I shouldn't have Elk go by herself in the forest when that things was in the forest.....although Alva was with her, but that guy's danger level wasn't anything normal.

Shit, I hate myself for not thinking it out thoroughly.....!

But, although I don't know the reason, but it seemed to have let her go.....based on results, it was good.

While apologizing Elk for that point, I kept on thinking how to get through this situation when that thing was near us, we couldn't let down our guar——.....

.....

「Hey, Minato-kun? That.....the monster you regard as dangerous is different from this one, right? Then does that mean, it has come near the forest?」

「.....How to say it, near, err.....」

I beat later.

「.....It just seemed to reached there, just now」

「「「!?」」」

I said while pointing my finger in a direction.....opposite from the plant monster. That direction seemed normal without anything, and the other three looked over there.....

When I thought that from the other side of the grove of trees came out the sounds of someone stepping on branches.....

It suddenly came out while splitting through the bushes.

Its body was covered with scales that seemed even more profound than armours.

Its body build was near to that of humans figure. However its body was bent in a forward-bent posture, it hands were quite long. They were divided in five fingers, just like humans, and in front of it were long sharp claws.

The tail of about 2 metre looked like a strong whip, and its end was pointed while being covered by even more hard and strong scales, making it a pointed spear.

That fiendish face was, seemed more like a dinosaur than lizard.....and a snake-like tongue peeked out of it. On its forehead, a gold, no an amber coloured horn was sprouted out. Looking closely, the claws were of the same colour.

That human dinosaur was bigger than an adult with large build.....and the intimidating air emitted from it wasn't a joke.

That appearance was.....certainly of『that demon』whose name I didn't know, but surely was vigilant from.

However there was just one thing different from the one in my memories.

(It's scales are.....black?)

The one I saw once a time ago had, green-coloured scales. No doubt about that. And the horn and claws were, red like blood.

But the scales of this one before me.....were black, albeit with some indigo blue added, while its horn and claws were amber-coloured.

.....Well it didn't change the fact it was a dangerous shit.

「.....Minato, is that one?」

「Yeah, it is the『Lizard』I was talking about」

「Hmm, so that is the demon Minato-kun was saying.....so is it strong after all?」

「Well it sure is strong. After all.....」

.....A little self-boasting here.

.....It was the only demon I wasn't able to win against while in my training period within those Woodlands.



It was probably 4 years before from now.

The me of that time was already at the level to take on the strongest in woodland, a giant snake, no a group of it and still deal with them. One day, as usual, I went in the forest to train and capture the food for evening meal, when.....I met『it』.

It was a demon I had never seen, a dinosaur human.....no, if I had to say it was more of a human dinosaur. That guy was fighting the demons of woodlands by itself.

It was torment, tearing, beating down the demons, which looked like a bear with a horn, completely one-sidedly. At that time it noticed me, and without any warning and hesitation, it attacked me.

I accepted the challenge immediately.....but the moment I confronted it, I understood.

That this guy was the real shit.

And that intuition that couldn't be called as a guess was proven as truth in a couple of seconds later.

That demon, which I had never seen or met, had a fighting strength that made the demons of Woodland seem like babies.

Its speed, power, technique.....everything was terrifying, I had confronted it with my full power and full guard, but I still remember that I wasn't able to do anything in front of it.

The numerous attacks that were sent out by that body with honed muscles, all had speed and power off the charts. Even with my enhanced eyesight, I wasn't able to see the trajectory of its attacks.

Its defensive power was also high, even after I was punching and kicking with all my power, it didn't falter a bit and sent out counterattacks. I was slapped by its arms and tail, scratched by its claws.....it was truly terrible.

Fortunately, my defensive power was also high since that time, so there was no bone fracture, even my body wasn't torn from limb to limb, even so the injuries that were all severe had spread all over my body, I wasn't in a state that could be fine.

"I will die like this", having that hunch, I dashed away in full speed.

En route an idea came to me and I crossed over my favourite hunting grounds, where the giant snakes territory was present. Like that, I made the lizard attack the snakes that were trying to annihilate the intruders.

As expected, the snakes were one-sidedly killed easily when confronted with that fighting strength. In that time, I gained distance and hid myself, and succeeded in escaping.

After that, I asked mom while she was treating me, according to her..... surprisingly, even she hadn't seen a demon like that in the woodland, and neither she had any idea of that demon's identity.

In short it was an wandering demon without any particular territory, and it accidentally came to the Woodlands, and by chance met me and attacked me, or so was mom's opinion.

After that, for a few days, mom was worried about me and kept my training with just a sparring match with her, she even took time off to search around the forest.

As expected I didn't leave the house in that time, and there was surely one or two of mom's pet guarding the house. Especially Stork.

In the end, after that incident.....I never met with that human dinosaur, who species even mom didn't know about, and so we called it『Unknown』. Like that I never met it again.

.....Until today.



The moment it came out of the forest,

Everyone's gazes were nailed on that Unknown.....because of its excess sense of presence. There were even those who stopped in their tracks.

If more than half of the demons weren't attacking that plant monster, currently one or two of the people would have surely died.

Of course even we weren't able to avert our eyes from that dark big lizard, walking over with firm steps.

I understood that Zari had an expression of shock and bewilderment, Sherry-san had shock and arousal, as for Elk and Neil-chan it was only terror.

「.....Err.....what is that?」

「Who knows? I don't know its name or any other information. But it is strong.....to a freakish extent」

「It is obvious after seeing it, this much is.....obvious」

While others were speaking those words to confirm its existence,

Some demons came out of the forest, noticed the unknown, and head towards it.

Maybe they thought it was more easier to attack than the plant monster, or maybe they didn't give a damn about it in their agitated state. Like that, several wolf-type demon and two of the scaled gorilla attacked it. If I remember correctly it was called『Lizard Kong』, probably.

And the next instant,

Its tail moved at speed unperceivable by the eyes and mowed down the wolves attacking at it.

As a result,

The wolves, were blown away and crashed into ground and trees.....well that didn't happen.

In turn, the front half of their body that was attacked by the tail flew off in pieces, and those demons that had now turned into lumps of blood

and meat, and fragments of bones, were scattered on the ground with a *pitter-patter* sound.

The wolves were exterminated in an instant, and the back half of their body jumped a little bit forward while abiding with the law of inertia..... and with just that much, they dropped on the ground, and never moved again.

And, one of the Gorilla that didn't even falter with the current scene, raised its fist one beat later, to hit the Unknown.....

The next instant, with the claws that swung with a speed unperceivable by eyes, lopped off the raised hand of Gorilla.

In the next instant, another flash of Unknowns other hand hit the head of Gorilla.

Maybe it was because of being chopped by 5 claws, or maybe the arm strength was just too much, that the Gorilla now didn't had any upper body.

As for the other Gorilla, it had its heart pierced the moment the first Gorilla head his head gone off.

It all happened in less than 3 seconds. The demons died without even knowing how they died.

Seeing the one-sided violence and killing.....the people there, including us, weren't able to let out even a single voice.

『Lizard Kong』was a C Ranked demon. Its scales had toughness like that of steel. It was a demon that could be defeated by an skilled adventurer that had completed hell training.

And the Unknown that defeated it with an attack that couldn't be seen by eyes now became a target of wariness on the same level, or maybe a higher level than the plant monster.

The Unknown removed the blood on its claws and tail in a flash, and abruptly glared at us. However, it didn't show any signs of coming at us.

We, including the adventurers and bodyguard group, took on that stare

without speaking any word or anything.

However, they were silent.....because they were scared. They were at a loss for words.

However, thinking about the situation that would happen the moment they return to their senses was obvious.....

「W-WaaaaaaaahHHHHHHhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!」

.....It would become like this.

Panicked State. Well it could be called whatever. Either run away from fear.....or desperately try to kill before being killed and attack the demon. They only had the two options.

Several chose the latter and came attacking at the Unknown with weapons in their hands.

The Unknown watching it, squint its eyes as if saying『new preys』, and poured the power in its tail that had just before turned those wolves into mincemeat.....at that instant,

In the whole battlefield, the『Magic Pheromone Intimidation』I used before in『Crimson Forest』was released in full throttle power.

「「「——!?!」」」

「.....Oops, excuse me」

Because of the abrupt shock, the panicked adventurers, Elk and others and even the rampaging demons from before, even that Unknown stopped their movements for a moment.

And the Unknown.....that was about to intercept the adventurers avert its eyes, and slowly looked at the origin of that『something』similar to intimidating air, in short, me!

That eyesight, made me remember of that time several years ago, it still had the usual severe intimidation in them.

Its body colour was different, so it wasn't the same individual from that time.....but how to say, it still made me feel nostalgic.

However this nostalgic feeling of having cold sweat perspiring out of me and having my breathing disordered, wasn't something I felt good and or any shit about.

In the eyesight of the Unknown making groaning voice from deep in its throat, made me think it was trying to grasp me, as if observing me, and it made me even think it had an will inside of it, how strange.

It was like being asked『Are you the opponent?』.

.....Alright, come at me you bastard, just bring it on!

「Elk, Zari and Neil-chan」

「「「.....?」」」

「I will take on that lizard by myself. So I plead to take care of that plant monster there with the help of Sherry-san and others. Elk and Zari need to provide cover and help in rescuing the injured people」

「.....No problem, but are you fine? Can you win?」

「Well, I surely can't lose here. I have only enjoyed 16 years of my life till now」

「Now this is unusually the meek Minato-kun, or what.....how to say, isn't this way of speaking by keeping his confidence in moderation, an impossible thing for Minato-kun? It won't become into something like, these were our last words, right?」

「Don't say any jinks.Even I know that this guy is the real deal」

「Hey Minato-kun, then what would you do if I said to fight that lizard?」

「.....You wanna die?」

「.....I'm just joking, yeah just joking.....Although I'm interested, but taking that as my opponent, I can't even imagine having a decent fight against that, with my current level. Hey, I leave it up to you this time」

「Thank you for understanding」

The talk ended with, to each their own way.....and after leaving the

other works to others, I neared the Unknown in way to not agitate it any further and also to emphasize on the fact that it would be fighting me.

While walking, I indeed felt.....something like intelligence in that eyes of that Unknown.

At the same time I remembered the talk Elk said before.

Although they met with Unknown, it only killed the hunters from『North』, and left Elk and others on their own.

Even its attitude of not attacking even when it had so many preys in front of its eyes.....does this guy only fight against those who attack it?

In that case, we would not be harmed if we ignored it.....but confirming this idea was dangerous. There was also the possibility that it put『priority』on the person attacking it.

When I was walking near it thinking that,

『GaaaaaaaoOOOOOOOO!!』

The moment I heard a growl from my side, the plant monsters was coming near me, after having dealt with the demons attacking it.

As if to say “The next prey”, it extended the roots from its root-made hands, and attempted to capture me and the Unknown for eating us.

However, frankly speaking it was a hindrance, so the moment I thought to pulverize it by kicking,

An intense magical energy swelled up from behind me, and suddenly, an arrow clad in burning flames hit those tentacle-like roots.

Like that it burned them.....no, it blasted all of the roots approaching, into small pieces.

Shocked, I turned back and saw Sherry-san holding an bow, and in a posture of just after firing an arrow. She was still on her guard, but where did she had that bow, or maybe she borrowed it from an adventurer near her.

Eh, Sherry-san could even use bow and arrow? Or rather it was an arrow

made from magical energy, right?

「Well there are reasons for it. I will tell later. We will make do some way here.....so I leave that way to you」

Saying that, magical energy knead in Sherry-san's hand.....and in a second, an arrow made out of magical energy was gripped.

It was the same magical energy arrow like Suura-san used. Although this wasn't ice, but fire.

Sherry-san was strong in close combat too, with this it would be fine.

But for just in case,

「Alva! Go back up Sherry-san and others. Like seriously!」

Plllllllllllll!!

Alva raised a sound as if agreeing and flew up above.

Alright, everything fine now. Alva was still a child (just one month old), but still strong, it could even use barrier-type magic, so it would be a help over there.

.....Well then, pulling myself together.....

「Well then.....I made you wait. I don't know how to call you.....but let me finish this fight as soon as it started, now shouldn't I?」

While I was talking with others, I had a part of awareness on it too..... but unexpectedly it waited for me. And right now made a growling sound from its throat as if saying, finally eh?

My guess about it attacking people that attack it might be true, but what could this be called, this guy has some parts that made me feel that it had reasoning power and intelligence.....what a strange demon it is.

Well but,

The thing that would start now was a dangerous battle that didn't had any shit related to that.....so there was no need to think about it.

My first formidable enemy ever since leaving the house.

This time.....if I let down my guard, I will die. Bracing my spirit, I resolved to go all out.

Chapter 48 ~ 50 – Unknown and the Trump Card of Darkness Part 1

Raiding abruptly appeared, to what Minato called as『Plant Monster』.

Its name was『Tropical Tyrant』, its strength was of AA Rank, the people who knew that it was the outstanding plant-type demon were not present in the current place.

That demon, after eating all the demons that had lost sanity due to drug, tried to attack the adventurers who were at the war frontlines.

It was inevitable, but against an opponent with true strength of AA Rank.....Adventurers of D and C Rank were nothing more than garbage.

The people fighting were, including the covering work were.....just Sherry and Zari.

Sherry was attacking by shooting arrows of fire, and while not letting the root and ivy come near, she would search for opportunities, and slash at its body with a fire-clad sword.

The attacks let out by the large body each had widely strong attack range, but for her it wasn't something she couldn't evade.

However, for defeating, for piercing through that large body, neither the weapons, arrows and nor the firepower of fire were enough.

Hence, an impression of offensive and defensive was made, for stopping its advance.

And behind her was Zari, who was supporting her with his Sand Magic, and Elk, who was helping in the evacuation of injured people. And also the support by some adventurers who were still fine enough to fight.

And even more,

「.....! It came from right, huh.....birdie, please do!」

Receiving such a voice,

Alva, who had been firing off appropriate magic attacks while flying in sky, flew off in the direction Sherry gave the command for.

And before its eyes, light of red magical energy started converging.....

and the next moment, it was fired off as a strong destructive beam that had enough power to easily crumble a stone precipice.

It flew to roots coming from the right, that Sherry saw, and hitting directly it exploded, scattered, got grilled and become powerless.

「.....Seriously, that birdie is truly awesome. Is it because it is the pet of Minato-kun?」

「Half is because of that. But the other half is because, Minato had taught it his own original magic sometimes just for fun. That beam is one of those seriously strong original magic」

In the break times of morning practices, Elk had seen Minato teaching Alva magic that he had thought in past but wasn't able to use them. Alva could understand the human speech, so it amused itself by copying the magic it watched.

Alva gained mastery in all of them, as a result, his battle strength increased drastically.

Before anyone knew it, there was the birth of a Demon Bird which could various magic no one had seen ever before.

That magical energy convergence bombardment was also one of them. It was Minato's original magic that created a destructive light beam with explosive power just by converging the magical energy particles, and the interaction or whatever between them created it like that.

Its offensive power, in this place, came second to Sherry-san's arrows. Making those as weapons, while maintaining the distance from『Tropical Tyrant』, Alva was fighting at the battlefield.

Then, maybe it got bored by the storm of attacks coming from all the direction –although it wasn't known if plants had that sort of emotions- this time, numerous roots and ivy, a number which couldn't be extended with just finger, sprout out from the whole body of Tropical Tyrant and attacked.

Seeing this, even the face of Sherry and others stiffened. However, they couldn't retreat.....and neither did they think about that.

Including the backup unit, they tried to use all the firepower at disposal and intercept that attack.....at that moment,

Alva came, flying to Sherry's side, and again in front of its eyes the red magical energy started converging, hence the charging of energy started.

.....6 at the same time.

「「「.....!?」」」

Even Elk had never seen that, unexpected scene, seeing that Sherry and other's bodies stiffened.

The next moment, converged light changed into 6 destructive beams, and with power not any less than before, all were fired off.....It blasted away most of the roots and ivy that were coming at them.

Sherry and others returned to themselves from the explosion sounds and shock waves. They intercepted the rest of the roots and ivy that got past the explosion, and cut down each and every of it.

At the time they finished, Sherry, who still was shocked, asked out.

「H-hey what!? Elk-chan!? That birdie could even do that much!? 6 at the same time.....I've never heard anything like that!？」

「I also didn't know! It only shot out one at a time.....I never knew that it could be this amazing if it went serious.....I knew it was a demon with high magical energy, but this is just.....」

「Is that so? No, but that is.....Hm?『6』?」

At that moment, Sherry was hooked up in the『6』numbers of attack that Alva just fired off.

Thinking for a bit, she rose up her head seeming to got an idea,

「Hey, Elk-chan.....is that birdie,『Nevalides』?」

「! You know about it?」

「Are you serious!? S-So t-that's how it was.....he surely has got

something tremendous as his pet.....」

Sherry was surprised, having her guess hit the right mark, and sent a fleeting glance at Alva flying right beside her.

「Well, in my home place, there are various legends there. Among that it comes out.....the Nevalides I mean, apparently they have 6 brains」

「Come again!？」

「Don't cow have 4 stomachs, and bugs have『compound eyes』, right? It's something like that. It is said that there are 6 brains of Nevalides, with each single brain having high intelligence matching to that of humans. And they are able to use them properly. While one brain is awake, the other brains sleep in a rotation, hence they need no sleep. And if using each of them when using magic, they are able to let out magic with power far surpassing normal power. It's natural, after all the concentration and thinking circuits just got six-fold」

「.....Now I don't even know how to be shocked」

For the time being, Elk and others understood the reason why he was able to shoot 6 destructive beams without any decrease in the power.

Along with the fact that there 6 brains rotating at full speed inside that bird's head.

However not thinking any deeper, they just considered Alva as a reliable ally, and again faced the enemy.

Then, abruptly,

「.....If I had to say reliable, the owner of this birdie is also the same」

「Yeah.....that's indeed, correct」

「Don't talk currently. Concentrate, come on concentrate」

Sherry and Zari were scolded with words as if being slapped.

However, even Elk, who scolded them, had looked along with others in the oblique direction, however.....in the next second their eyes returned back to the front.

The fight occurring there was reflected in all their eyes, for just a second.

The fight against Tropical Tyrant, an AA Rank demon, was indeed tough, even though they had powerhouses like Sherry and Zari, along with Alva, whose race was outside the norm.

If this were a normal situation, they seriously needed the power of Alva's owner, who just happened to be the strongest powerhouse present here.

However, no one said that, without speaking out any complaints, they all were fighting by themselves.

Of course that was because.....they knew that he was also fighting with another enemy, a lizard, which obviously seemed like an extraordinarily strong opponent.

And also because, only he was the one who could take on that as an opponent.

Currently, just for one second, it was reflected in their eyes.....

「Haaaaaaaaaaaaah——!!!」

『Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaa——!!』

Their attacks were exchanged at a speed that couldn't be discerned by eyes, it was a fight on level that only Sherry could know what was happening there.

The people concerned, no one interfered. They couldn't.

Because they knew that they couldn't do a thing, and there was meaning in speaking anything.

☆☆☆

——Gyooooooooo

With a speed that a normal person wouldn't even be able to notice let alone react to it, a hand with 5 sharp claws reached out towards my head

as if wanting to break it.

I, who was already showing my seriousness with the magical energy of『darkness』, dodged that attack as if something jumped in my chest.

Before the other attack came, I strike its stomach with my tightly-clenched and magical-energy-loaded fist.

However the feeling that was transmitted from the fist that hit it was, as though I had punched some humongous iceberg.

The solidness surpassed my expectations. The scales were also tough, and the flesh behind it was also quite solid.

.....It completely made me remember about 4 years ago.

And, barely an instant, it showed a strange wavering which made me doubt if it faltered or not, and the Unknown let out its next attack soon after. The attack of the other arm flew at a frightening speed.

I closed up enough therefore, I judged it would be difficult to dodge, and guard myself with my arm.....the next instant, a attack with power far surpassing the power of『Naga』's rush impacted on my arm.

I purposely didn't stand firm. I let the power fly away like that and reorganized my stance.

My arm became a little bit numb.....but no problem. I can move it.

There in no time, Unknown let out another attack with its claws, but I forcibly warded it off by punching from the side.

And then, with my other arm.....this time,

(If stomach is not good then attack the.....face!!)

Taking a solid stance, I punched the face of Unknown with all my might.

This time it apparently worked, it bent backward greatly, and Unknown's body stiffened.

Without a moment's delay I tried to send out another attack, at that moment, in the peripheral vision of my eye something blackish was reflected, at the same time, sound of cutting the air rang out.....and I at

once averted my upper body.

The next moment, no nearly the same time, the whip-like tail buzzed and grazed my cheek.

pssh, my cheek was cut, and blood flowed from the single line.

.....It has been a while, since I have shed out blood from an attack by a demon and not mom. It might be the first after using『Elemental Blood』.

While thinking something like that, I performed back somersault, flew backwards, and made some distance between us.

Dear me, there was not even a cerebral concussion after hitting it with my whole power, huh. The teeth didn't break and the scales also weren't smashed. The facial shape was also the same as before. Its bones were also fine, I bet it.

But I seemed to cut a little bit within its mouth, more or less, it even spit out a little red blood mixed saliva.....just that much. I'm losing confidence here.

And, this strong blow exchange.....didn't even take two seconds, just how fast was this battle going at? This fight was a fight that exploited the concentration power and nerve-transmission to their extreme limits.

I thoroughly thought. That this『Unknown』in front of me was different from all the demons I had fought till now.

Compared to that time 4 years ago, I had surely become strong.

However, even so, I couldn't see bottom of this guy.

But well, it wasn't an opponent could be complaining about.

I can only defeat it as soon as possible, using all of my 16 years.

I concluded that unwillingness was banned, and before the other attack came at me, I rotated the『darkness』magical energy in my whole body in a large quantity, that even naked eyes could see black colour seeping out from my body, and charge it.

This was my limit quantity, so that I don't stop moving after charging

too much.

Seeing my appearance, the Unknown's eyes showed wariness.

However, its fighting spirit didn't seem to have weakened. Well, I didn't expect that from before, though.

And immediately, the Unknown rushed at me as if saying『Just great! 』.

Without having chance to feel the vigour and pressure, it covered up the 10 metres distance I had opened up in just an instant, and again its strong arm swung.

Its claws neared me from the side, as if to gouge out my face.....Or so I thought, but

(.....!? Feint!?)

Right before I tried to guard against it, the arm suddenly stopped, changed its trajectory, and was pushed out as an overarm stroke seeming just like a spear. Its aim was.....my throat.

「Ooooooh!?!」

The overarm stroke neared me with the force of piercing and opening a hole –it also seemed possible to happen if I took it head on-, but I knock it down by punching down from above with my knuckles, and before another attack came, I let out a kick and seized its stomach.

With the full charge of『darkness』magical energy, my physical abilities were enhanced even more than before. My horizontal kick that attacked it in under that condition, bend the body of Unknown in the shape of symbol『<』.

I tried to beat it down before a counterattack came, but again in my peripheral vision, the black tail buzzed.

However without evading this time, I caught it and gripped it hard.

「Heave.....Hooooooooooooo!!」

Like that, I swung it with the trick of giant swing, and letting on the centrifugal force, I fling it away, towards the forest.

Without entering the bushes, Unknown hit a thick tree and fell down.

And because I had flung it with my whole power that the tree that was hit made an enormous『dooooom』sound and was smashed. The tree had a trunk of 1 metre thickness.

It broke, and pinned the Unknown below.

.....But, Unknown normally stood up. It normally brushed off the tree.

Well, indeed it wasn't unhurt this time.

If someone saw this scene, it would appear like I am on the offensive.

It was like that, though.....in truth, my mind was flustered a tad bit that I didn't have enough leeway to speak words like that.

After all, there had been no demon till now, which used clever things like feints.

Moreover, that precision in it wasn't something just on the level of skilful. It had quite the speed, even though the movements were completely different, it nimbly changed the trajectory without any feeling of forcibly changing it.

I doubt there would be many humans who could do that.

I again felt, that fighting strength and everything else out of norm.

Its movements were more accurate than a machine, and smoother than a human. It even had the high physical strength and stamina like a demon. Moreover, judging by the fact it even had a idea to use something like feints, it was apparent that it also had high intelligence.

Adding everything, it could only become something that I could yell this at: Holy ShiT!!!

Normally, demons lack at least one of those parts, henceforth they were an existence that humans could fight against.....but for a demon having all of this, could now only be called as living calamity. I'm moved to tears.

I again felt that I would die if I let down my guard.....and now I attack.

I took on a stance that could intercept any attack, let it be arms or tail, like that I kicked off the ground and approached it, there the Unknown waiting for me, for some reason, opened its mouth wide. Why?

Subsequently, *hsssss.....*the sound of inhaling greatly rang out.

Don't tell me it could fire out fire or something? or venom just like『Naga』? Or, does this guy also has the magical energy and would fire magical bullets?

The next moment,

『————iiiiIAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA————!!!』

「Wtf.....!?!」

「「Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!?!」」

「「Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?!」」

The thing that came at me wasn't magic or flame, but.....an outrageous loud voice.

No, not just loud voice, but it was ridiculously high voice. Like ultrasound, or something like high frequency.

More directly than blow attacks, that mystical sound wave invaded from my ears.....with a *whonk* it jolted my head, and an outrageous attack hit me that almost stopped my thoughts.

Moreover, I could also hear.....the voice of Elk and others fighting the Plant Monster in a far place. Just how far this attack reached!?

Due to this attack from an completely unexpected angle, I had my stance broken.....without a moment's delay, the Unknown again took an strange posture.

It was extremely forward bent posture, just like the crouching start of track and field athletes.

And the next moment,

I kicked the ground with enough force to gouge it out.....and rushed at me without hesitation.

I abruptly crossed my arms in front of my face to guard, but I wasn't able to stand firmly.

The next moment, due to the tremendously powerful ramming attack.....I was sent flying away at a speed that I could feel the wall of air crashing at my back.

Some blinks later, something crashed my back. Apparently something collided with me. From the feeling.....it appeared to be a tree?

「Wha.....Eh!? M-Minato!?」

「T-That surprised me.....Minato-kun, are you fine!?」

Subsequently I heard the gentle voices of girls which were 1 million times much kind to ears compared to that ultrasound.

No, that was fine, but why could I hear the voices of Elk and Sherry, moreover it seemed like they were really close to me.

Then, the seeming tree, at least based on the sensation it gave, seemed to move as if squirming.....

「Wai, Minato it's dangerous.....」

『Gaaaaaaaaa!!』

「Whoa!?」

So it truly was a tree, but of Plant Monster, eh!?

I performed a forward somersault to evade the arm of roots falling at me, as I did, the place I was at before.....the ground of the place I crashed into after being blown away, now had several roots piercing.

Of all things, I collided with this, huh! I believe they were fighting at a far place.

In other words, it turns out that I was blown away with a force that I could easily cross over an enormously wide plaza. Just what is that power, it far surpassed that of truck and dump trucks.

——That's right! Unknown!

I turned around, and the Unknown was just jumping while in full speed, while aiming at me. It rose up its hand and swung down its claws.

I tried to stop it but at that moment, the tail moved, and I noticed that. In other words, its main attack was that.....another feint, huh!

I dodged horizontally while not being assaulted by it, and this time, know what, the tail violently jolted, used the recoil and changed its whole body's course, again coming at me. wtfh, ain't that tail too much convenient!?

However, in that case it wouldn't be able to use the tail this time, and I took the stance for taking on the attack with my gauntlets.

The claws attacked that, and the moment I thought an impact would come.....the Unknown,

Didn't attack me with the claws, but.....damn, it clenched its hand into a fist.

「!？」

To my surprise, the claws, for not becoming a hindrance, were stuffed in the spaces between fingers.....it had become something like a thorny knuckle duster. Like that, a fist that looked fiendish attacked me.

Taking the attack that was heavier than claw attacks, the arm guarding me was flicked off.....the next moment, the Unknown stepped in again and its tail was swung.

The moment I thought to guard against it with my other hand, again the tail changed its direction strangely with force, and this time its leg.....leg!?

Eh, kick!?

Moreover that way of kicking by using the other leg as axis, and kicking

horizontally while using centrifugal force was, don't tell me.....

(Don't tell me, it's my kick.....!?)

The kick captured my stomach horizontally, and this time it was my body that turned into the symbol of『<』.

「Ah, Aargh.....!」

Immediately after, before I was able to catch my breath, again that fist approached me.

Seeing closely, it was difficult to tell due to difference in the length of our arms, but this way of punching also seemed similar to mine.....?

While enduring the pain from the creaking abdominal muscles, I took on the stance to guard with my left hand. No, even if I can't guard against it, it would be good to just ward it off.....when I thought that, just before the punch hit my hand, its hand opened up, and the claws attacked me.

Then,

stab

「That

[illegible]

Like that, the grabbed arm.....was bitten by those sharp fangs. (TLN: yeah fangs and not claws.)

It cleverly aimed for the area between upper arm and elbow.....the area without the gauntlet protection.

My skin and muscles weren't even pierced by swords or scratched by axes, but currently they were bitten, by sharp and solid fangs, along with the help of masseter muscle power of the jaw. At the same time, an unusual pain attacked me.

It was completely surpassing the level when I was bitten by the stray

dog in my previous world, this pain wasn't a laughing matter, but for some reason I seem to have experienced it.....

Ah, that's right, it was the pain I felt in my last moment of my previous life.

In the aeroplane accident, the fragments stabbed my body here and there, it was the same that time. How nostalgic. But as natural, I'm not at all happy about that, damn fuck it.

The fangs of Unknown kept on digging deeper as if wanting to bite everything off, and make me a one-armed person.

I even heard the scream of Elk from far away. Argh, geez, don't create situation that would make a girl worried, you damned reptile!!

「DON'T. UNDERESTIMATE. MEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!」

It was impossible to tear off with my power, or rather, I judged that as dangerous.....and so I converged magical energy in the area Unknown was biting into.....and changed it into the magical energy of『lightning』and『fire』.

I launched it with my full power, and the electrical discharge of the highest voltage started. At the same time, my arm started giving out ultra-heat that Unknown couldn't keep on biting me anymore. From my wound, no from my whole arm the fire and lightning seeped out.

With the lightning attack and flame attack, the Unknown immediately released my arm having been hit by an unexpected attack.....in that chance,

「It's just the repayment, you damn big lizard!!」

I charged my right fist with『wind』magical energy to the limit, and along with a windstorm I sent it flying away.

Including the repayment from before, I sent it towards the roots of Plant Monster.

And, because this place was still within the attack range of Plant Monster, that I took back steps and while reaching a safe place, I.....

converged『light』magical energy in my paining left arm.

Pushing aside the black colour of Darkness, the white coloured magical energy now covered my wound.

「Minato!? Wha.....are you fine!? Do you still have your arm!?!」

「I'm fine.....and yeah, it's still connected, the bones are also fine」

While I was speaking, the cells were revitalized with magical energy and magic particles in my blood vessels, like that the restoration proceeded. Gradually the haemostasis also proceeded, and the flowing blood stopped.

There wasn't enough time to close up the wound itself.....but good, the blood had more or less stopped. The pain also had decreased a bit.

Around that time, the Unknown, who had been fighting with the roots, finally cut down all the roots and vines with its claws and tails and leaped out.

As expected, with its tough scales and muscles, there wasn't even a scratch on it even with the root punches.

But, apparently the damage from my punch still remained, so I heaved a breath of relief. If it had healed completely in such less time, I would've been in a bad situation.

But the situation didn't change for better. If talking about injury, then obviously I had a serious injury. After all, my left arm had been injured to a level that I can't disregard it.

Moreover the other side, little by little.....has been imitating my combat abilities, and the variation of attacks has been just increasing.

Its stamina was also of unknown numbers, so protracted war would be dangerous.....looks like I would've have to finish this in a short time.

.....I've got no choice.

Let's use my trump card.



Only 3 people and 1 bird sensed that the atmosphere changed.

The people on the battlefield, Elk and Sherry, along with Neil-chan, who had been standing in a far place to not get engulfed in the fight, these three noticed it, and also Alva, the『Nevalides』.

The atmosphere drifting around Minato changed, err, the magical energy drifting around him changed.....and those 3 people and 1 bird, sensed it with their sensitivity.

Before they were able to guess about its true identity, the next moment,

He crossed the arms in front of his face in the shape of character『X』, closed his eyes and concentrated his mind.....then large amount of『darkness』magical energy emitted from his body, so much that it already far surpassed anyone's imagination.

And that didn't disperse in the atmosphere.....but it started coiling around the body and was converging.

Its appearance was just like, a tornado or typhoon of violet colour. With Minato as the centre, that dense translucent Darkness Energy was coiling strongly while creating a whirlpool.

The darkness then, just like cotton candy coiling around splittable chopsticks, started twining around Minato's body and wrapped it.....it appeared to be like that.

At the same time, the translucent Darkness magical energy, became more dense, and it became so dark that other side couldn't be seen, hence covering the body of Minato. His figure became an silhouette, and soon enough that also couldn't be seen.....like that step by step.

Due to the excessive magical energy quantity, the surroundings also suffered from the waves of that enormous energy.....the adventurers who were the mages that could sense magic felt as if literally being hit by a storm.

Even the Unknown showed wariness to the current bizarre situation and

didn't come any closer.

.....And after some seconds passed that seemed like several hours had passed,

「『Dark Joker』.....Install.....!!」

Along with that voice,

The tornado of darkness burst and scattered while raising a loud explosion noise.....from inside that, Minato appeared in an appearance where he had already got out of the stance where he crossed his arms in『X』alphabet.

.....However,

On this head were two, curved horns, which seemed like the shape of goat's horns.

On his waist was a, long and thin, but with pointed front, an ominous tail that seemed like that of a cat or panther.

And from his back appeared wings like that of a bat.

All the parts were of the purplish dark colour, the same colour as that of『Darkness』 magical energy that he was covered moments ago.....

「Eh.....Who!? Or rather.....what!？」

.....It was natural for Elk to mutter that, after all Minato stood there in a form completely different from before.

